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Sea Angler

124 pages
of shore and
boat fishing



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Are you using the
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Your guide to
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WELCOME

Sea Angler Issue 573 On sale July 25 - August 21

IN THIS ISSUE WE HIGHLIGHT SOME GREAT SHARK FISHING ON OFFER now for both shore and boat anglers. Of course, I urge anglers to handle all sharks carefully and, when boat fishing, perhaps consider releasing fish at the side rather than bringing them aboard. If you must take a cherished catch photograph, please return the fish quickly.

The handling and targeting of big sharks, particularly pregnant females, is under scrutiny and I've been told a tagging scheme is mooted to test the mortality of blues due to recreational fishing. Let's avoid restrictions.

While speaking to a charter skipper about bringing porbeagle sharks aboard, he told me: "It's a shame our sport is getting wrecked by people who don't know and understand what we do. You wouldn't believe how many sharks I am having coming to the boat with longline hooks in their mouths or trapped in nets that we cut off. We're saving more sharks than doing harm. And as for being endangered, people don't realise I am catching more and more porbeagles each year, so surely this means the population is healthy."

MORE BASS

It seems scientists have good news for bass anglers, with ICES revealing that although management measures are still needed to increase the stock to a truly safe level, the species is now out of the very worst danger. 'Told you so', I hear many of you saying. Of course, more campaigning is needed to create an abundant stock with more big bass, but there is a fly in the ointment. As David Curtis reveals on page 43, the EU Commission and the French Fishery Minister rejected our Fishery Minister's proposal that sea anglers should have their bag limit increased to two fish per day for the rest of 2019.

David says this is an outrage for two reasons. Firstly, the current one-fish bag limit is a disproportionate measure. As sustainable stakeholders in the bass fishery, sea anglers' share of the total catch should have increased as unsustainable fishing methods were cut. Instead, the one-fish bag limit was a harsh restriction.

Secondly, the EU Commission's position that increasing the bag limit to two fish could double the tonnage impact of sea anglers is not supported by science. Estimates for the tonnage impact of a seven-month season would be 272 tonnes for one fish per day, 334 tonnes for two fish and 362 tonnes for three. Anyone's basic maths would work out that it does not double the tonnage. Get this...the EU Commission also argued that there is little point in increasing the bag limit since only a small number of 'expert' sea anglers would be able to make use of it. I'll give you a moment to stop laughing.

There are more than 90 tonnes available to be allocated in 2020 and I hope, as David suggests, that the wrong that has been done to sea anglers is rectified. If you want to push this point to those that matter, go to www.saveourseabass.org where it's easy to reply to the consultation.

SCARE STORY

Some of you may have seen stories in the Times and Telegraph that changes to the governance structure of the RSPCA could see the animal welfare charity fall under the influence of a hardline anti-angling faction. It did not go unnoticed in the Angling Trust bunker, and policy chief, Martin Salter, wrote to RSPCA chief executive, Chris Sherwood, to seek clarification. Thankfully, the RSPCA boss confirmed the charity has no plans to campaign for a ban on angling. Remember, extremists would like nothing better than to stop recreational angling. Please remain vigilant.

I'd also recommend you check out the story on page 40 about tuna tagging and a potential problem for skippers taking part.

Cliff Brown, editor

PRIZE WINNERS

Shakespeare Agility 2 rods competition (issue 571). Surf rod – Andrew Rushworth, Lancaster; V C Worboys, Gamlingay & Dave Gibson, Reading. Braid Boat rod – G Ross, Spennymoor; C P Traynor, Bournemouth & Steve Fuller, Maldon.

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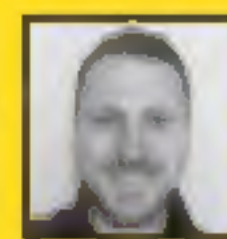
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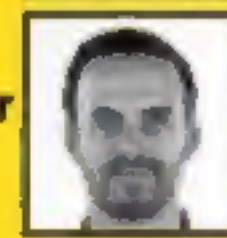
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Dave Wood-Brignall
with an 8lb
small-eyed ray

A jewel in Somerset's crown



The rugged beach located close to the harbour town of Minehead in Somerset offers anglers some fantastic sport... ►

MINEHEAD SITS NEATLY ON the south bank of the Bristol Channel in Somerset. I suppose it's fair to say this quaint, picturesque coastal town is actually more renowned for its incredible charter fishing. Groups of boat anglers regularly take the relatively short steam into the coloured water and fast tides to sample brilliant inshore fishing that this part of the UK has to offer.

However, those who choose to venture on to one of the many shore marks located close to the harbour find the fishing can be equally as exciting.

I'd been promising myself to venture south-west into Somerset for such a long time, but for whatever reasons, it never seemed to get off the ground. Then, as luck would have it, I found myself in conversation with Minehead's local shore guide and tackle dealer Craig Butler.

Shore fishing around Somerset was picking up and I could tell by the excitement in Craig's voice, that he was keen for me to get there.

"The smoothhounds have turned up, along with conger eels and small-eyed rays. The usual thornbacks are around, but there's even been some large blonde rays too," confirmed Craig.

I couldn't delay it any longer and got to work on putting a team together for a quick two-day visit. It's vital to work with some seriously talented anglers who can focus fully on achieving good results. So, with a team eventually assembled and accommodation booked, I was soon on the road heading towards Somerset.

DOUBLE-TIDING

It was close to the summer solstice and

A small-eyed ray for Jason Atkins



very warm. The sun was blinding in a cloudless blue sky as I weaved my way through Bridgwater. The winding country lanes eventually led me to my breakfast rendezvous with Craig, local matchman James Madsen and Dave Wood-Brignall who had made the journey from Kent.

The plan was to visit two marks and do

double-tides on both days of my visit. I was excited and keen to get moving, but I knew from past experience that double-tiding can be extremely tiring.

"We've got around an hour before we head to the beach. Our first mark is close to the harbour and known locally as White Mark," revealed Craig. ►



The beach at
Culvercliffe, known
as White Mark



**Charlie Jenkins (17),
from Barnstaple, with
his first small-eyed ray**



**There are plenty
of strap congers**



**James Madsen with
his spotted ray**



The locals call this place White Mark because of a prevalent feature situated at the back of the beach. To be precise, it's actually named Culvercliffe and pretty much the whole of the venue is strewn with boulders.

The main focus was to fish three hours of the ebb tide and then the first three of the flood. An interesting thing to note here was the number of pleasure anglers who were out fishing. Not only is it pleasing to see shore anglers on the beach, it also sent out a clear message (to me anyway) that the fishing here was particularly good.

Craig, James and Dave chose their spots and were soon firing baited rigs out into the Channel. Interestingly, they all decided not to blast their rigs, but, instead target areas closer to the beach.

DEBUT RAY

An hour into the session and it was clear that dogfish were abundant. All three had opted to use pulley rigs armed with various fishbaits such as mackerel, Bluey and frozen sandeels, either individually or as cocktails.

The trio connected with dogs almost as soon as their baits settled after casting. Further up the beach, we could see anglers with bent rods. Small-eyed rays were obviously on the feed, just not in front of us.

Charlie Jenkins reeled in a cracking small-eyed weighing 7lb 8oz. And what was even sweeter, was to see the huge smile the 17-year-old from Barnstaple, Devon, was wearing because this was his first-ever shore session. He's definitely a new shore angling recruit and signed up for life.

James suddenly pounced on his rod as this bite looked slightly different from the usual doggie. A few moments later and he was beaching a lovely spotted ray.

The tide was an hour into the flood and the bites were coming thick and fast. To our right, Jason Atkins, from nearby Weston-super-Mare, landed a scrappy conger eel. This was quickly followed by a superb 8lb small-eyed ray.

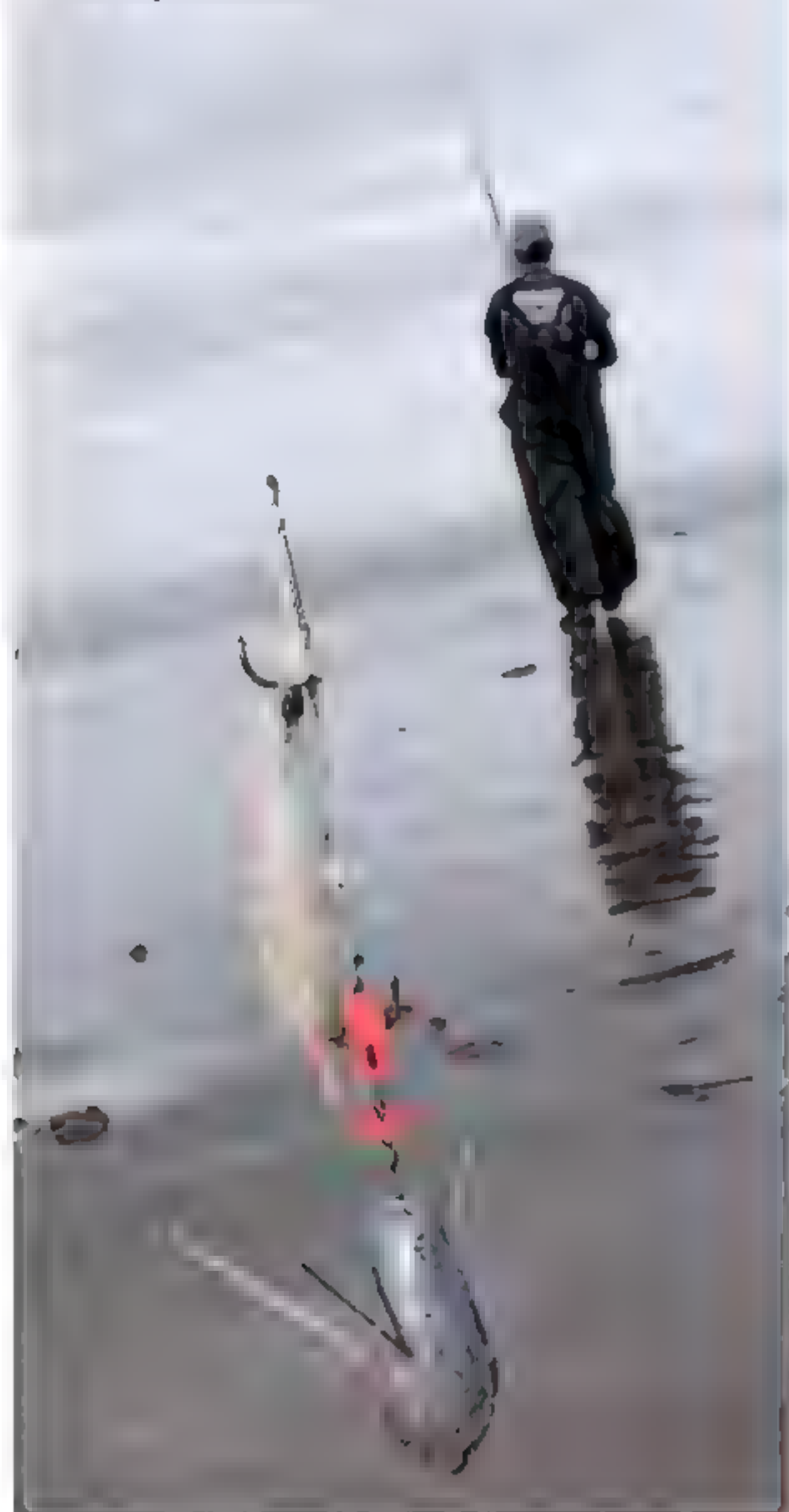
Craig was pulling out all the stops to locate a ray, but the more he tried, the more the ever-present dogfish frustrated him.

This only confused him more when Dave also hooked and successfully landed a fine small-eyed ray pushing 8lb on a sandeel and lance combo.

As the tide began to push over the boulders,



Fish baits were the top catchers



the bites – and other anglers – thinned out. It was time to pack up and grab a coffee before heading to another venue to fish the evening tide.

All in all, it was a fantastic start to our Somerset adventure and it certainly promised to get better. ■

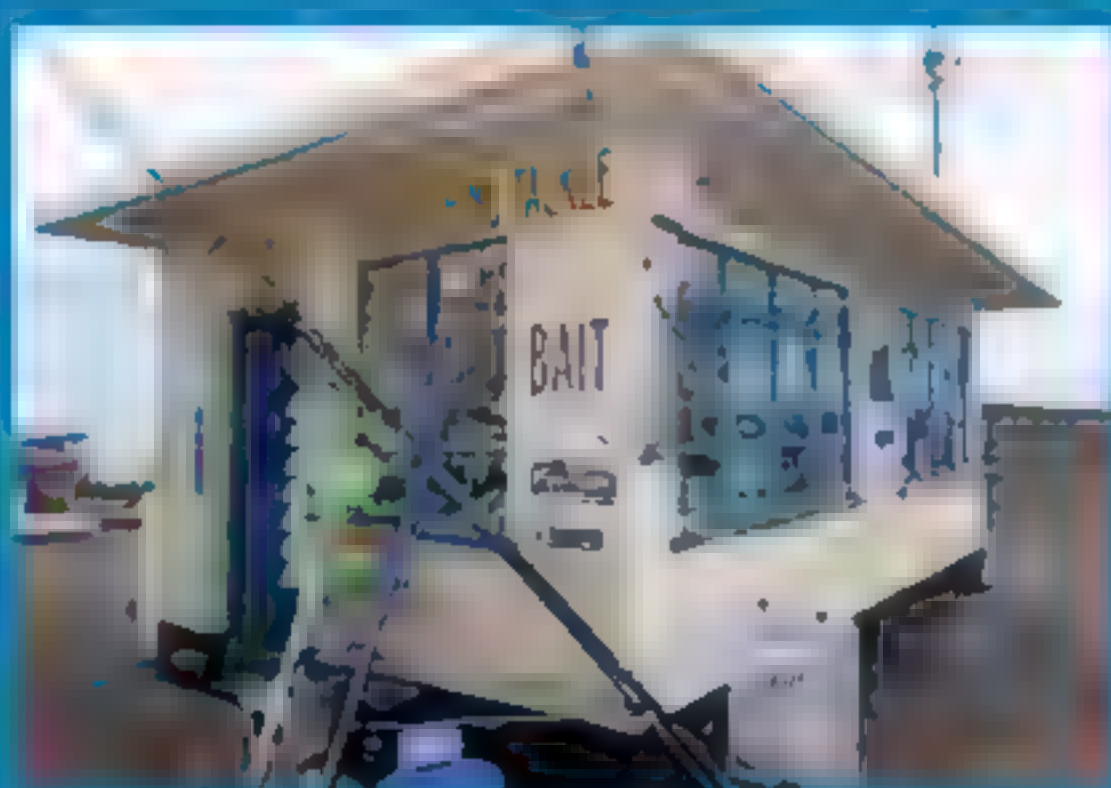
You can count on dogfish to feed



THINGS TO KNOW

■ There are two tackle shops very close by that stock all fresh and frozen baits and a wide variety of essential tackle. Both shops also participate in the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme.

■ West Coast Tackle, Quay St, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5UL, tel: 01643 705745.



■ West Coast Angling Centre, 5 Swain St, Watchet, Somerset TA23 0AG, tel: 01984 634807.

■ Craig Butler also provides a concise and efficient guiding service around Minehead. You can find him on Facebook at The Naked Angler Bristol Channel Shore Guide. Alternatively, you can call him on, tel: 07528 208750.



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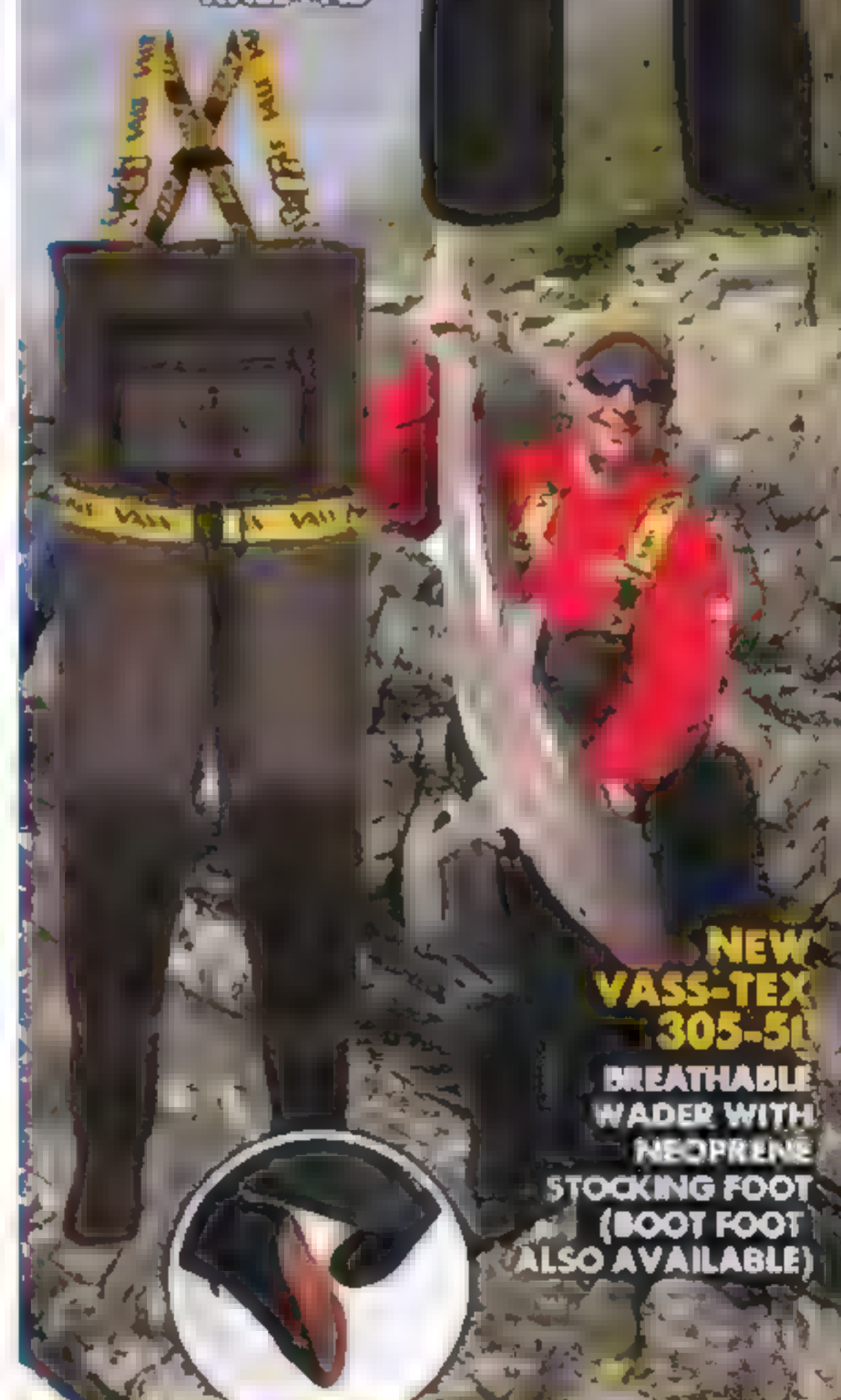


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Summer stingrays

Warm weather and calm conditions are the ideal time to target these big rays

LIVING ON THE ESSEX coast, I'm only a stone's throw from the county's prime stingray beaches and, as a result, these heavyweight sea creatures have been on the top of my catch list.

Stingrays have been a real interest to me from a very young age and over the years I have lost count of how many I have landed or lost. I have some great memories of being the first angler to catch a stingray in the All England Stingray Championships, which was held every year at St Osyth beach when it was not unusual to see upwards of 180 competitors turn up from all around the country.

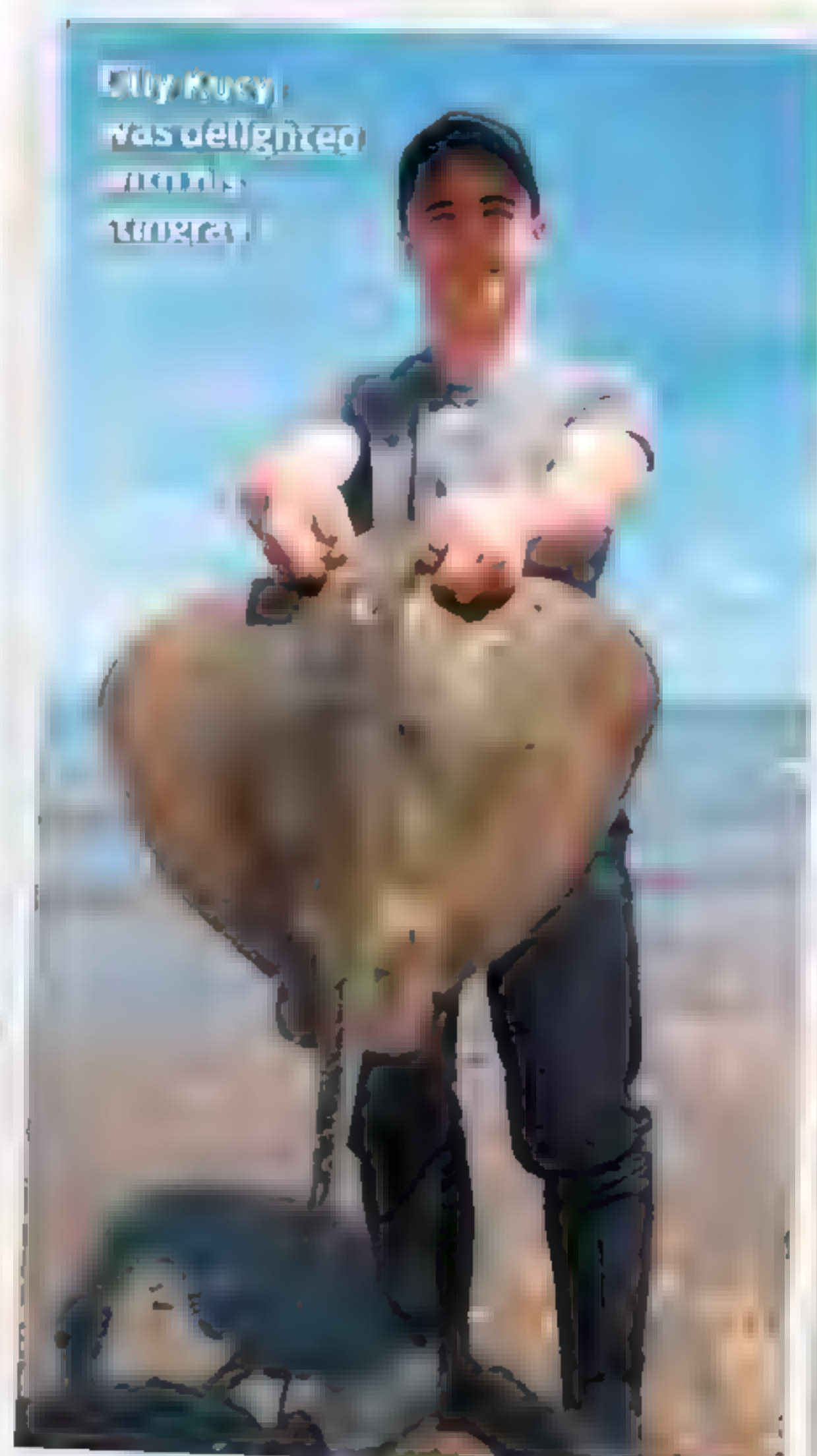
Sadly, that annual match has long gone, but those stingers still frequent our shallow beaches every summer, and to actually hook one and feel its immense power is really something to be experienced.

TIME & PLACE

To actually target these giant beasts is not as easy as it seems. You have to put in the hours and be in the right place at the right time to help your cause. Even then, there are no guarantees.

Unlike other fish, stingrays can be caught on most states of the tide. Indeed, I have

caught them on the full force of an ebb tide and at slack water too. It's the unpredictability of stingray fishing that makes everything about them that bit more exciting.



Top bait must be ragworms, with peeler crabs a close second and, to be honest, in recent years squid has also seen its fair share of stingrays caught.

On my last fishing trip to the south of Iceland I met up with father and son team Lee and Oliver (Olly) Kucyj, from Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, and we soon hit it off and have kept in touch ever since.

On that trip young Olly caught an Iceland record starry ray of 1.82kg, which was later found to be a world record.

Over the last couple of years Lee had been messaging me about coming over to Essex to seek out a first stingray, but what with one thing or another we just couldn't find a date to meet up.

That all changed this year and, even though it's a long way from their home in Pembrokeshire to Essex, they were keen to give it a go.

With high pressure above us and a mini heatwave heading our way, all was conducive to catching a stingray. This species loves warm weather – in fact, the hotter the better!

There is nothing better than a morning low tide and the sun warming the beach as the tide floods up the beach. Stingrays love the heat of the sand on an incoming tide.

Our session began at 8.30am when I met ►



"There is nothing better than a morning low tide and the sun warming the beach as the tide floods up the sand"



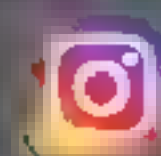
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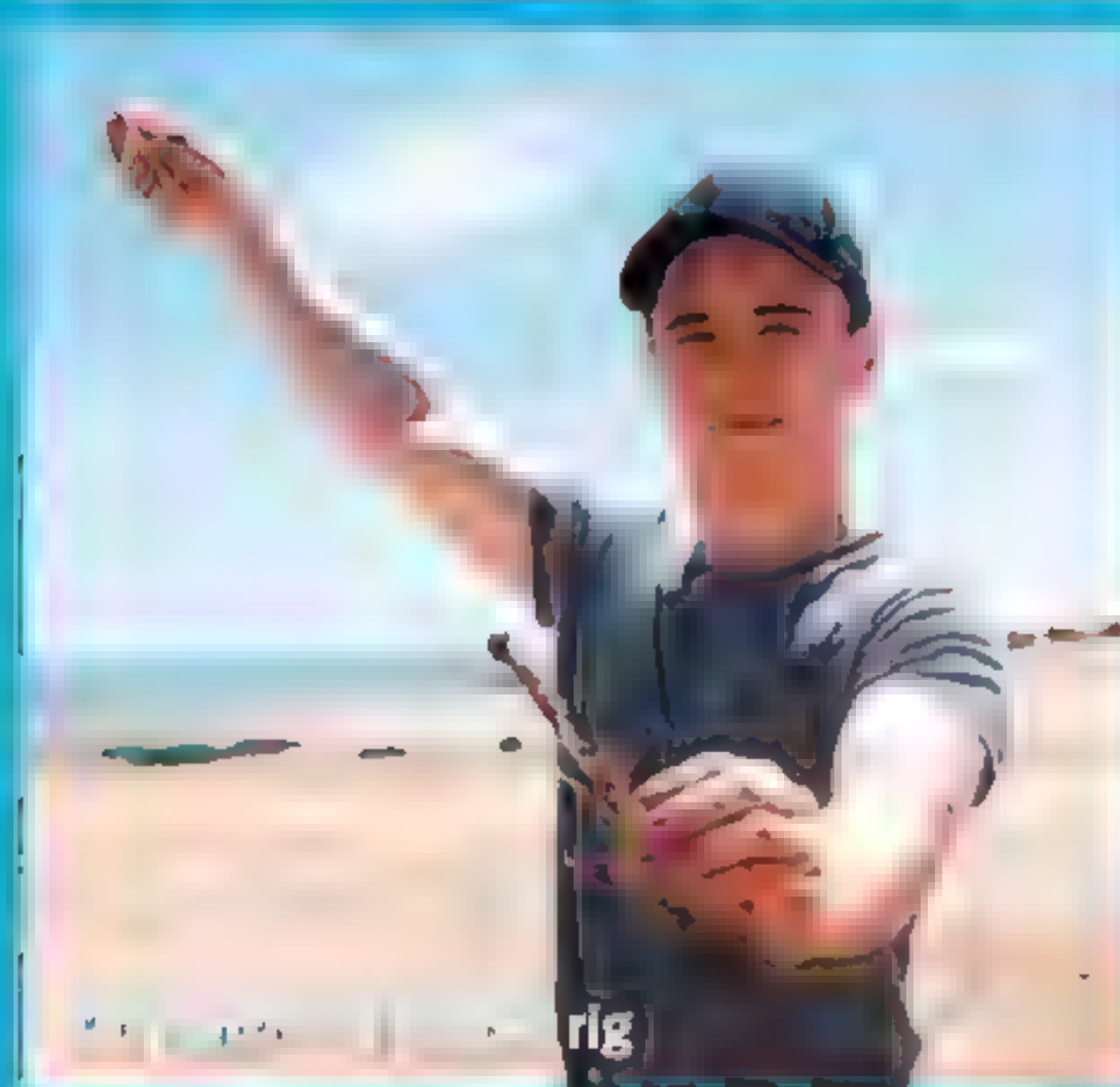


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Lee and Olly and we headed for the beach. We could feel the heat building, and with plenty of juicy ragworms and some locally sourced peeler crabs for good measure, surely we'd find a few bass and maybe a stinger too?

WAITING GAME

The beaches I fish are shallow and at high tide six feet of water is about as much as we can hope for.

We were fishing two hours either side of high water with long pulley rigs carrying size 1/0 and 2/0 hooks baited with ragworms.

With baits cast into the flooding tide, we sat

back and waited for that first bite. It was the hottest day so far, so we were grateful for the cool bag packed with ice blocks to keep the bait fresh. The first hour produced very little at all and I was beginning to think that the trip would be wasted. I was already thinking about excuses, such as the weather being too hot, the clear water and crabs robbing the bait from the hooks.

Eventually, just before high tide, we started to get bites, mostly from school bass, but at least the rod tips were starting to get busy. Even if we didn't catch our intended species, we would have a good day with bass.

Seeing a rod-bending bite, I struck into a weighty fish, but, alas, it was not a stingray, but it was a bass. Soon Lee and Olly landed a couple of sizable bass each.

As high tide came the rods stayed quiet in the tripods, but as the ebb started to flow Olly's Tronixpro Cobra rod began to bend over and then kept going some more. He picked up his rod and held it for a few seconds, looked at me and said "Shall I strike it?" My answer was "Yes, and hold on!"

AWESOME SCRAP

As Olly got to grips with playing the fish, the relief flowed over me like the biggest weight had been lifted from my shoulders. The Cobra showed a healthy bend and line was doggedly moving up the tide.

The look on the youngster's face was a picture and one that I could recollect to all those years ago when I caught my first stingray from these very beaches.

After an awesome scrap we began to make out the dark outline of the stingray in the clear shallow water and that venomous tail thrashing above the waterline.

Olly handled the fight like a pro, and I stood back until the stingray was landed, unhooked, and photographs were taken. Soon the fish was released into the sea and, as the heavyweight ray swan off, the smile on Olly's face said it all. Father and son are already looking forward to their next stingray session. ■



6

Find out as much as you can about the venue you will fish

Ragworms out-fish most baits

No need for big hooks – a stinger has a fairly small mouth in comparison with the size of its body

Set the clutches on your reels to light because a big ray can catch you off guard. Suddenly, while sitting watching the rods, all hell can break loose very quickly



Putting in the time pays off, so don't get disheartened if you don't catch your target on the first trip

Dedication is the way forward when it comes to stingrays, so don't give up





Going down

You'll need stamina and should travel light, but the strenuous walk is worth the effort



STEVE LAWRENCE'S JOY AT arriving at our destination changed to a state of shock as he stared over the grassy cliff top from 420 feet above the blue lagoon that is Chapman's Pool. The descent into what he wrongly described as the 'jaws of death' certainly made him appreciate the need to travel light.

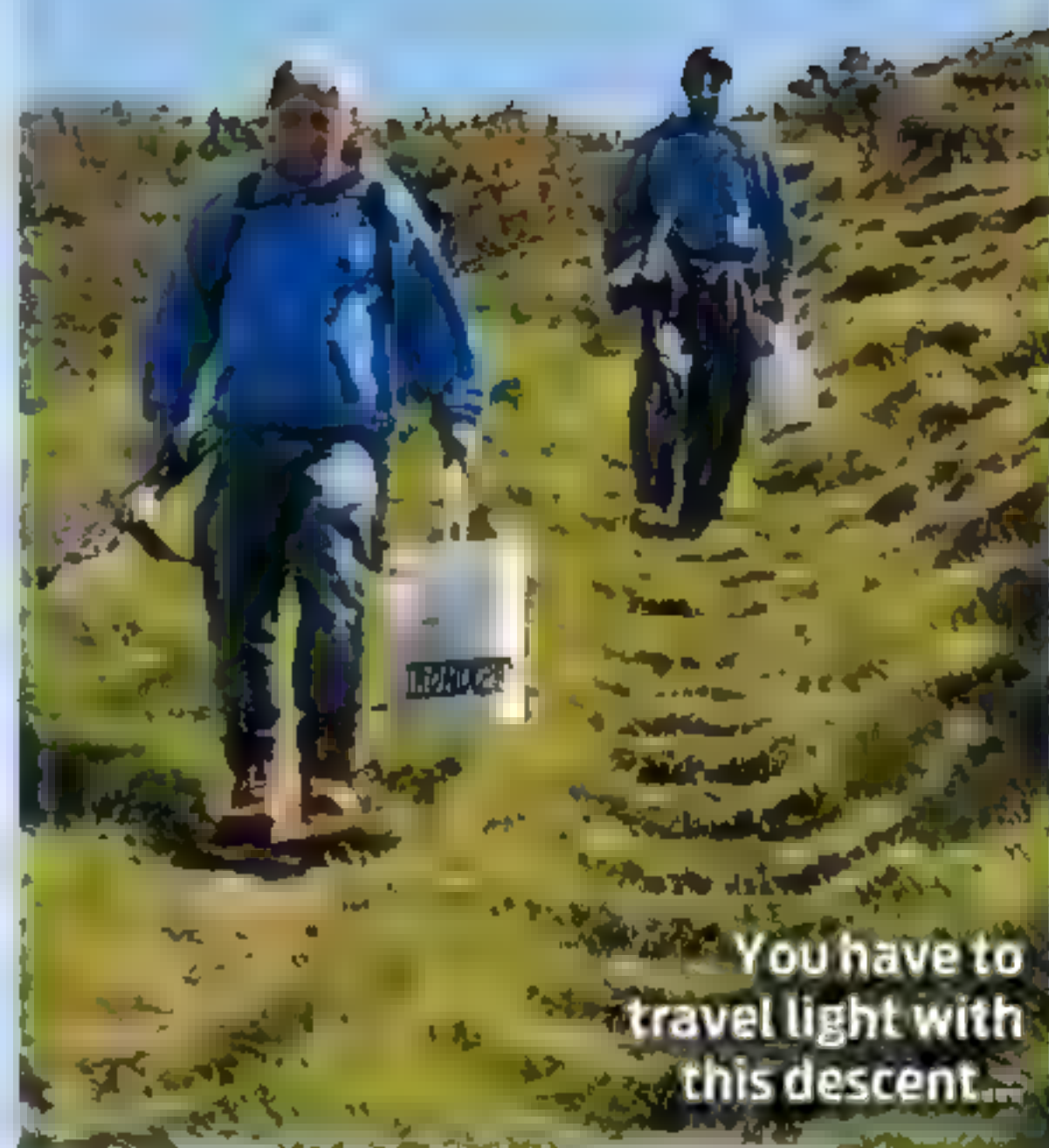
We'd arrived at one of my favourite stretches of coastline, the rolling and often rugged hills along the Purbeck Coast. Apart from some good fishing surrounded by spectacular scenery, I'll probably never forget the look on Steve's face as he first glanced over the cliff edge and realised we needed to descend a steep winding track to reach the small horseshoe-shaped cove nestling below.

I kept quiet about the return journey, which would make even the fittest person huff and puff. It certainly deters the crowds.

Completing our party of three was Chris Rogers. I had picked them up on the outskirts of Poole and, as usual, the conversation was robust as we made the short journey to the Purbecks.

Several decades ago it was possible to drive all the way down to the eastern side of Chapman's Pool, where there are a series of fishermen's huts, associated equipment and a small slipway. Unfortunately, the whole area is renowned for its unstable cliffs and it was here that a huge landslide resulted in a large section of the road leading down to the bay being swept away.

In recent years, the lost section has been replaced by a very rough track, which is closed for vehicle access, meaning you ►



You have to travel light with this descent...

...because it's a long way down

TOP TIPS

- Travel light.
- A good pair of hiking boots is recommended.
- Avoid the area in wet conditions when the footpath becomes slippery.



must use the car park on the Renscombe estate. From here, the walk is about a mile as you follow the footpath across two fields until you reach the cliff. A zig-zag path leads down for the first 200 feet until it joins the reinstated track, where you follow it down to the huts and slipway.

Fifteen minutes later we were down by the fishermen's huts, and after another five minutes had reached the centre of the bay near the cliff where the small stream tumbles on to the beach. We had arrived at low water and plenty of kelp and rocks were breaking through the water's surface. When legering here, some tackle losses can be expected.

If you are heading down for your summer holidays and staying in the area, this is a great venue where the family can mess around in rock pools while you get down to the serious stuff. It is also a very popular venue for fossil hunters, who you will see chipping away with their hammers seeking specimens of every shape and size.

BEST TIDE

While you can catch fish almost anywhere in the shallow bay, I prefer the centre section where a small stream tumbles out from the cliff. Be warned, this is not a venue to fish in rough conditions because the waves will sweep right up to the cliff. A neap tide is best because it will keep you away from the crumbling cliff.

Never get too close to the cliff, even though it is not very high where the stream flows out. If you get trapped by a big flooding tide it is possible to scramble up at this point, but it can be very wet and muddy during the winter.

By day, the main species during the summer

A nice double shot of ballans



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Chris Rogers (left) and Steve Lawrence with a fine pair of wrasse



and autumn are wrasse, garfish, pollack and bass, all of which can be caught by legering, spinning or float-fishing, which can be great fun and does not require heavy equipment to be carried down to the shoreline.

At night, bull huss, dogfish, pouting, rockling, some hefty conger eels and the occasional big undulate ray come out to play.

Bait choice is simple. During the day, ragworms and crabs will work for wrasse, while small strips of mackerel sort out the garfish and pollack when float-fishing. For bass, an early-morning lure session is recommended. At night, fresh mackerel and squid are really the only baits I would take.

We chose 30lb mainline straight through with a 20lb weak link on the bottom. Steve and I fished size 1/0 short-shank Kamasan Aberdeen hooks, while Chris selected smaller hooks because he is a keen species hunter having recorded 44 differing species during the previous year. I like a slightly larger hook when targeting ballans because bigger baits often sort out the better specimens.

On this occasion, apart from ragworms I had a few soft crabs that work really well for early-season wrasse and often out-fish peelers. On this occasion, it was to be no exception.

For those fancying a night session when some real heavyweights often come out to play, it's worth noting that the small car park is locked at 10pm and that there is no roadside parking.

FIRST ACTION

Starting at low water with just a few feet of water covering the centre of the bay, I was not expecting any immediate action, although Chris Rogers did have a small corkwing wrasse on his first cast. It was a waiting game for the next hour before the ballan wrasse began a feeding frenzy.

I was the first to taste the action with a half of soft crab producing a small ballan, quickly followed by Steve taking a double shot. These were not monsters, but a good stamp of fish that certainly gave a good account of themselves in the shallow water.

Once the wrasse were on the feed it was non-stop action until the top of the tide. Chris also had some decent fish on the float

while fishing just 30 yards from the shore.

As the tide topped out it was time for a quick move around to the slipway section near the access point, which was far too shallow to fish over low water. Again, the fish came thick and fast. While we did not land any monsters, we had a fantastic day's fishing amid great scenery. What more could you ask for? It's certainly an area worth checking out during your summer holiday.

Walking back up the zigzag path to the top of the hill was equally entertaining, with Steve puffing like a steam engine, although he is slowly getting fitter. ■



NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

Head for Worth Matravers, drive through the small village to Weston Road, which eventually merges into Renscombe Road and leads directly to the car park.

TACKLE SHOPS

■ Purbeck Angling, 28 South Street, Wareham BH20 4LU, tel: 01929 550770

■ Swanage Angling Centre, 6 High Street, Swanage BH19 2NT, tel: 01929 424989



SHARKS ON THE REEF

Get the correct conditions and plan carefully when seeking big smoothhounds

WITH THE WEATHER on our side and the weekend approaching, it was time to conjure up a plan of attack for the next sea angling adventure. Our mission was to catch

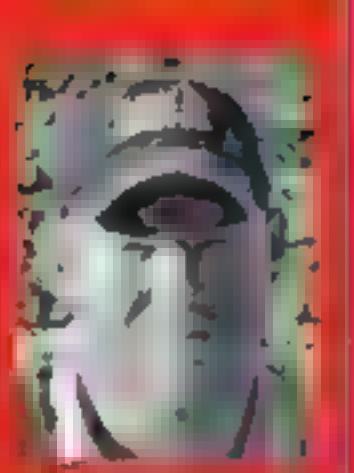
some big smoothhounds. North westerly winds to 15mph were forecast for the Friday night and Saturday, before switching westerly around 6pm and dropping to calm weather by midnight. Therefore with low water being around 6am on the Sunday, it was the perfect chance to head up to the Bristol Channel to target some hounds.

I'd arranged to meet Rob Yorke and Adam Slack on the Saturday evening so we could travel to Somerset to a noted smoothhound venue that they had fished many times and had caught hounds to more than 15lb. I'd heard

ANGLING ADVENTURES WITH ANDY WEBB



Two fantastic
hounds for Andy
and Rob Yorke



about it, but never fished there before.

On the Saturday afternoon, I spent my time tying rigs and getting my gear ready for our overnight adventure. I was excited to get on the reef and get a few baits out in hope of a monster hound.

It must be stressed that the low-water reefs on the Bristol Channel can be very dangerous places to be if you don't know where you are going and are unfamiliar with the surroundings. Fishing at many of these reefs involves wearing waders to access the marks, and sometimes it means water remains behind you.

The Bristol Channel has the second fastest tidal flow in the world and the water can race in behind you, meaning these marks are the last places you want to be if you get cut off. You need to watch the tide at all times while fishing, and give yourself plenty of time to get off the mark and back to the shoreline.

SETTING UP

Adam picked me up at 10.30pm in the Plymouth area and then we met Rob on the outskirts of Exeter. After a stop for coffee, we reached the car park at our destination at around 1am and still had around an hour to kill before we would be able to get out on to the venue. It was an opportunity to snatch some sleep.

An hour later, we were out of the car and soon ready to set off to our destination. After a 20-minute walk, we had reached the shoreline and walked down over the reef. We were slightly early, but waited for the tide to ebb. Within 15 minutes, as we shone our head torches out to sea towards Wales, we were greeted by the first sign of another reef just starting to uncover about 15 metres out.

With our tackle boxes on our backs, we started to wade out using our tripods as sticks to feel the seabed in front of us, making sure there were no deep holes waiting to engulf the unwary. Once on the reef, we had very little room, so we put our boxes together on some higher ground above sea level, allowing us to get set up and keeping our gear dry at the same time.

I had a pair of Anyfish Anywhere Tournament Grand Prix rods matched up with a pair of Penn Fathom 15 reels fitted with Phil Stares' mag conversions. We



Rigs were loaded with prime fresh peeler crabs

were all using Pennell pulley rigs, mine having a size 4/0 Cox and Rawle circle hook tied at the top with the snell knot, and a single size 3/0 Specimen Extra at the bottom. These would be loaded with prime fresh peeler crabs (purchased from Euro Angling in Torquay).

FIRST HOUND

We spread out along the reef and made our first casts into the darkness over what is generally clean muddy ground. Adam was to my right and Rob to my left. The tide pulled our lead weights around hard to the left as the tide ebbed, and it was not long before we had the first fish. Sadly, it was not a hound but a dogfish for Rob, followed by one for me.

Daylight arrived and with it came the sign we wanted as Adam's reel started to spill line. I could see the tip of his Zziplex M427 SU arching over as he started to gain line on the hound.

With Rob at the water's edge getting ready to land the hound at the front of the reef, it was soon picked out of the water and placed further back up the reef in a rock pool. It really is an amazing sight to witness the capture of such a fantastic hard-fighting species.

It was not the 20-pounder we were looking for it but still a double that took the scales down over the 11lb mark. Soon the fish was returned into the murky waters of the Bristol Channel, but leaving us wanting more.

PACK FISH

Smoothhounds tend to feed in packs, and when you catch one normally there are more to follow. This proved the case for us as the tip of my Grand Prix arched over and my reel's ratchet screeched as a fish sped off with my bait.

Nine times out of 10 when using circle hooks, if you strike the fish you will pull the bait out of the fish's mouth. By simply lifting back and starting to reel the fish, the hook will turn into the side of the fish's mouth and set the hook, which if you maintain pressure will not let you down.

Moments later Rob lifted the second



Rob lifts his rod, leans back and starting to reel in a smoothhound taken on a crab bait



After photographs of our two fish, they were released back into the water

hound from the water. It weighed just under 10lb. As we put it into the rock pool, Rob's reel screamed. Adam headed down to the water's edge to land Rob's fish, and within a few minutes we had our third hound of the session, a fish of around 8-9lb. After taking a photograph of our two fish, Rob and me released the hounds back into the water.

With fresh bait on the rigs and cast out, we hoped for a few bigger fish, but after fishing over low and two hours back with no more bites, it was time to call it a day. The water had started to come in behind us and it was time to get off the reef safely. It had been a good session with great company and lots of banter. What more could you ask for on a Sunday morning adventure? ■





BASS STICKS

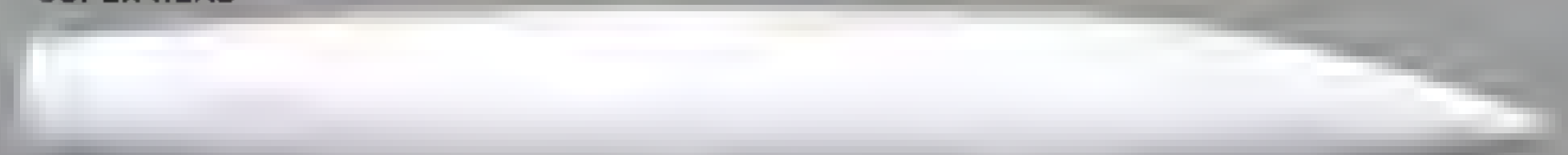
We are delighted with these fabulous stick baits designed for long range casting and all predatory fish but especially for Bass.



GLITTERBOMB

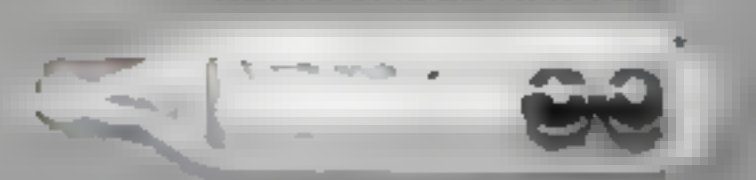


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REMOVABLE RATTLE



They have the following features :

- Fabulous live dancing actions when fished with a jerk or twitching motion!
- Cast to the horizon!
- Super tough , can take multiple Bass catches on each Sticks
- Removable glass rattle so they can fished silent if required
- Bass Sticks are designed to be fished with weedless Spin lock hooks

RRP: £7.99

NEW

SPINLOCK HOOKS

The perfect compliment to your Bass Sticks these best quality 91768 Mustad are fitted with spring locks for perfect hold and placement of your lure.

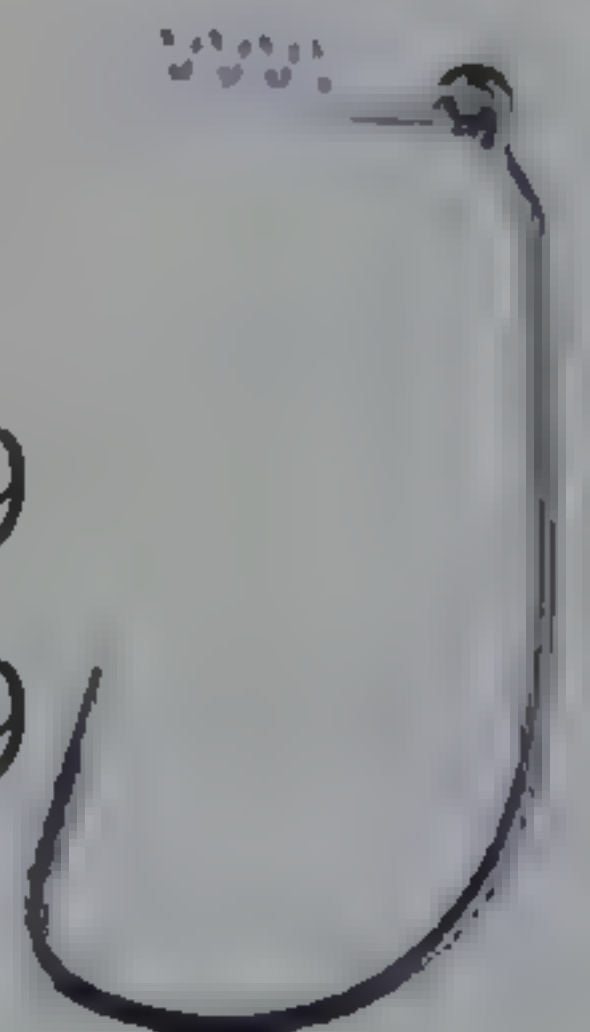
We recommend the following size Spinlock hooks for your Sidewinder Bass Sticks.

Bass Sticks - 6" size - 22 gram - 7/0 hooks

Bass Sticks - 4"size - 10 gram - 4/0 hooks

7/0 RRP (5 pack): £5.99

4/0 RRP (5 pack): £3.99



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SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WHILE ON holiday on Florida's Gulf Coast, I was enjoying a late afternoon stroll on Naples Pier, soaking up the last of the day's sunshine before heading to a favourite bar to abuse happy hour. As usual, there were plenty of fishermen lining the pier railings, including the usual group of hardcore shark anglers, who are more or less permanently camped at the very end of the pier.

When I asked them how their luck had been so far, I was told that, apart from a few small sharks and stingrays, not much had been caught. They were waiting until after sunset when the big boys come out to play.

"You from England?" enquired one of the more vocal members of the shark crew.

Rather than complicate things by saying that I was from Wales, I nodded in agreement. "You know that dude off the 'River Monsters' show," he demanded, assuming, as so many Americans do that being such a small island on a map everyone in 'England' must know everyone else?

Well, I have met Jeremy on a few occasions I confessed, which clearly impressed my inquisitor. "Oh my god, this guy is buddies with the 'River Monsters' dude," he hollered at the top of his voice.

It was pointless trying to backtrack now, so I smiled and discreetly headed off in search of two-for-one Margaritas on 5th Avenue.

Next time I'm back in Naples I'll be sure to revisit the pier, and this time I will have a story that will seriously impress my shark-hunting friends...I've interviewed him.

Born in Ipswich, Suffolk in 1956, Jeremy Wade was brought up in Nayland, where his father was a vicar. Jeremy, who has a degree in zoology from Bristol University, along with a postgraduate teaching certificate in biological sciences from the University of Kent, spent a short time working as a secondary school biology teacher. Today, of course, Jeremy is known as being the presenter of various iconic television series including 'Jungle Hooks', 'River Monsters', 'Mighty Rivers' and 'Dark Waters'.

Having turned his back on a career in academia or teaching, for decades Jeremy has spent much of his time abroad, fishing for obscure and invariably very large species of fish at some of the most remote and hostile locations on the planet. To date, he has caught a dozen different freshwater species weighing

Thinking big!

Meet Jeremy Wade, whose exploits with huge fish produce some of the most iconic fishing seen on television



more than 100lb. Funding his expeditions has resulted in various part-time jobs, and the occasional article in magazines, so I think it fair to say that for many years Jeremy has lived frugally. He is fluent in Portuguese, which he studied during the many years he has spent fishing in Brazil, and also speaks French and Spanish. Certainly, the 'River Monsters dude' has lived an eventful life, during which, at various times during his journeys abroad, he has been detained as a suspected spy, caught malaria, been threatened at gunpoint, and survived a plane crash.

SALTY ADVENTURES

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Jeremy at his home in the heart of rural Somerset where, sitting in an archetypal English country garden with swifts screeching

loudly in the blue sky above and a male blackcap singing loudly in the shrubs next to a pond, we were about as far removed from the Amazon or Congo as you could imagine.

This was where I spent a fascinating afternoon chatting about Jeremy's experiences of fishing in saltwater, rather than the freshwater for which he is more usually associated.

"When I lived in East Anglia, occasionally I used to fish the beaches at night for whiting, and once or twice we actually caught a codling or two. I used to like beach casting for the adventure – it was so very different from fishing in freshwater. I loved the atmosphere on a cold and frosty beach at night, the hiss of the Tilley lamps, eating fish and chips, waiting for the rod tip to rattle, indicating a bite," revealed Jeremy when I asked him if he had ►



Jeremy with his second book 'River Monsters'

Jeremy shows off the impressive jaws of a goliath tigerfish



Tough gear for huge fish



any experience of sea angling in the UK.

"I once caught a conger eel from a wreck off Plymouth, only a small one of about 15lb, but it was big enough for what we needed for the particular programme we were filming. Increasingly when filming overseas, though, we started to encounter saltwater species, especially when filming in the vicinity of estuaries, an environment where typically you'll often find a crossover between both fresh and saltwater species."

Remembering one especially impressive piece of footage I had watched that Jeremy's crew had shot in Queensland, Australia, I asked about the humongous grouper he once caught fishing from the banks of the Brisbane River.

"We were actually fishing for bull sharks near the mouth of the river, not the most scenic of venues being located as it was next to a sewage works and infested by the worst mosquitos I have experienced anywhere," he recalled with a grimace.

"We had been told that local anglers had encountered bull sharks here, a species that regularly run many miles up rivers and have even been known to breed in freshwater. My bait was fishing in a dredged channel when it was taken by what clearly was a massive fish, though obviously not a shark.

"For a long time, I struggled to get it over the lip of the channel, still not knowing exactly what it was that I had hooked. We were all staggered when eventually I beached an estimated 250lb Queensland grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*). The locals we were fishing with had never seen one before."

Clearly enthused by the subject of enormous fish, he continued: "Over the years I have caught several other very large fish when fishing from the shore, including more seriously large groupers when fishing from the rocks at the Gulf of Carpentaria, again in north-eastern Australia.

"On another occasion we were fishing in the Indian River Lagoon in Florida, and I caught an estimated 300-400lb Goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*). I've also caught some monster stingrays fishing in both estuaries and freshwater, including one in Thailand that I fought for two hours, which we estimated at weighing around 350lb. The same day I lost an even bigger one when the heavy offshore boat rod I was using snapped, just as we were about to land the fish."

AMAZING CATCHES

Throughout his various shows, Jeremy has featured and caught many of the world's great species of saltwater sports fish

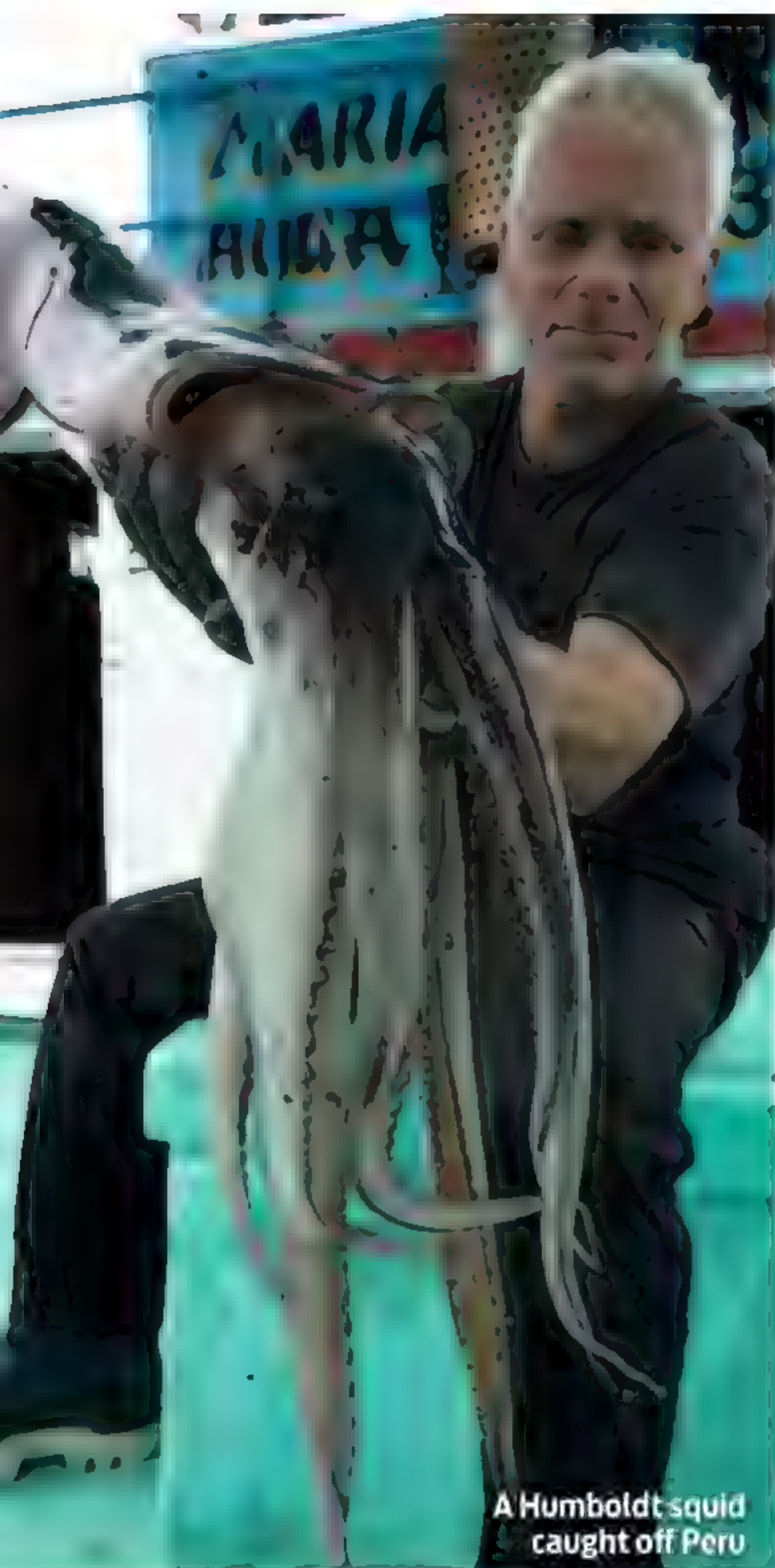
including various species of billfish, but the one that really gave him a workout was a yellowfin tuna.

"We were filming at Ascension Island and I had already caught several 1,000lb-plus six-gill sharks, huge fish yes, but despite their great size they are not especially hard-fighting fish. Provided you are using suitable tackle, they can be brought to the boat in a reasonable time.

"One day we decided to try for tuna and I soon hooked a monster yellowfin, which I ended up fighting for four-and-a-half hours. Tuna really are incredibly powerful fish with unbelievable stamina. That yellowfin weighed in at 240lb."

Tarpon are another of his favourite saltwater species, being incredibly powerful fish with an immense amount of stamina.

"I once hooked a 100lb-plus tarpon fishing in a river in Nicaragua, but so far as tarpon are concerned, that's not an especially large fish. At the time I was fishing from a float tube, which made it almost impossible to apply effective pressure on the fish, with the fight consisting mostly of the fish towing me around the river, which is known to contain bull sharks. It was two hours before I managed to bring it alongside and release it," he said, as I couldn't resist a



A Humboldt squid caught off Peru

smile at the image conjured up in my mind.

Other memorable saltwater fish soon come to mind. "I've caught halibut fishing off the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, the biggest of these weighed about 120lb. Big halibut are very dangerous if brought into a small boat alive. They can cause considerable damage to the boat, anglers too, which is why skippers often gaff, harpoon or even shoot the fish first.

"We didn't want to kill any, so we used a huge net to envelope the fish and bring it aboard for filming, a technique we had learnt from our experiences handling giant stingrays in Thailand. Did you know that if you rub a halibut's lateral line it will generally lie quietly? Even so, I had one hell of a job safely holding the powerful fish while presenting a piece to the camera."

Other big fish he has encountered in saltwater have included GTs in the Pacific, Greenland sharks to about 400lb while fishing through a hole in the ice in the Arctic, salmon sharks which are very similar to porbeagles, and a big male tiger shark estimated to weigh somewhere between 800-900lb, again caught at Ascension Island.

"I once had the unique experience of diving with a 15ft oarfish in the Mediterranean, and in another programme spent several days ▶



This male fish was caught off Ascension Island



A goliath grouper taken from the Indian River Lagoon, Florida



The huge Queensland grouper from the mouth of Brisbane Rivers, Australia

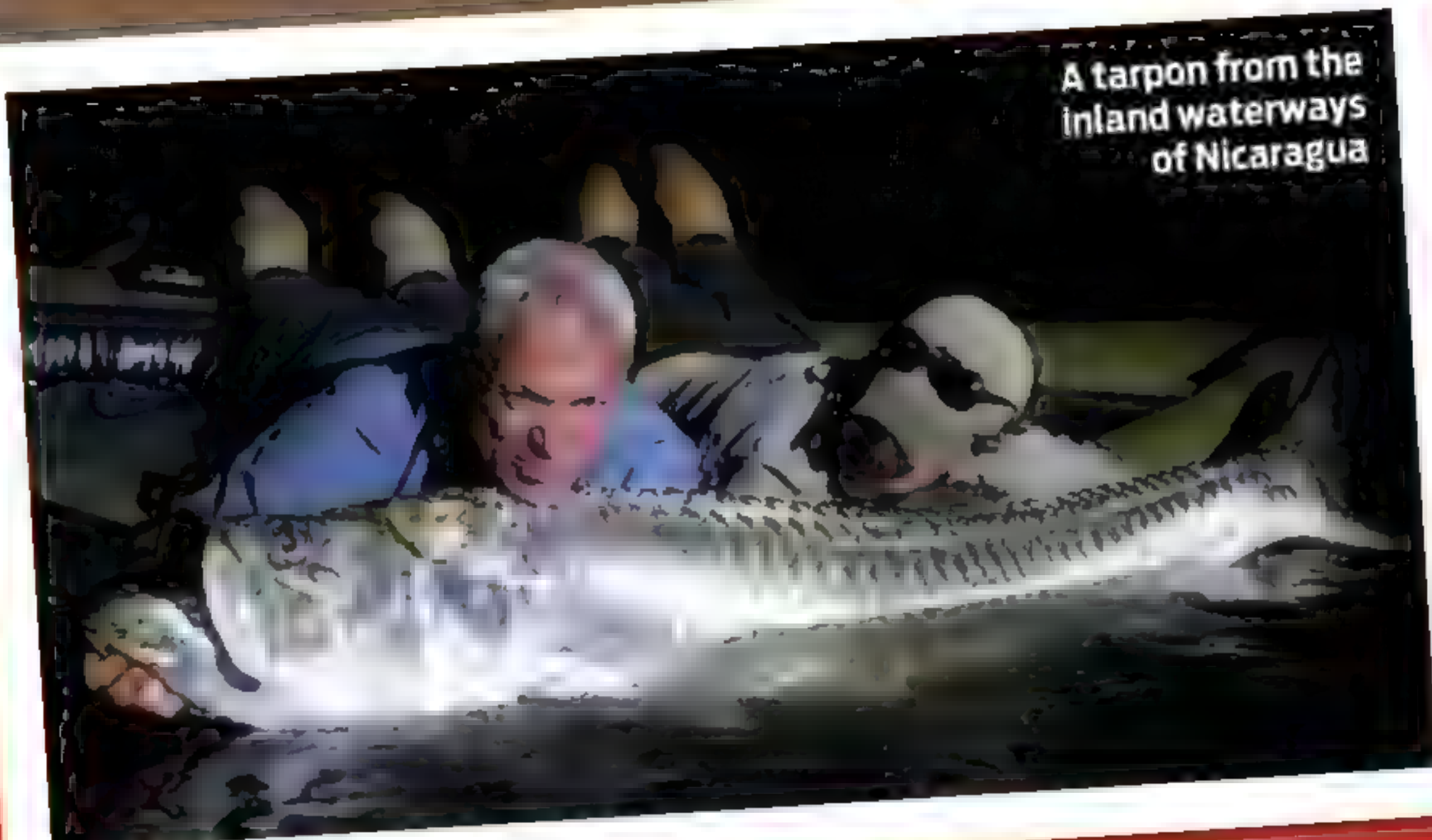


Another beast from the Indian River Lagoon, Florida – a bull shark

The Fitzroy River, in Western Australia, produced this sawfish



A tarpon from the inland waterways of Nicaragua



In a submersible off Honduras



in horrific seas off the coast of Peru to film Humboldt squid. It was so rough that for the first two days the cameraman couldn't turn his camera on, even the captain was violently sick.

"On another occasion I descended to a depth of 2,150ft to the seabed in the Cayman Trench off Honduras in Central America, to film six-gill sharks feeding on a dead pig. It took 45 minutes to reach the bottom; that really was an incredible experience."

CULT STATUS

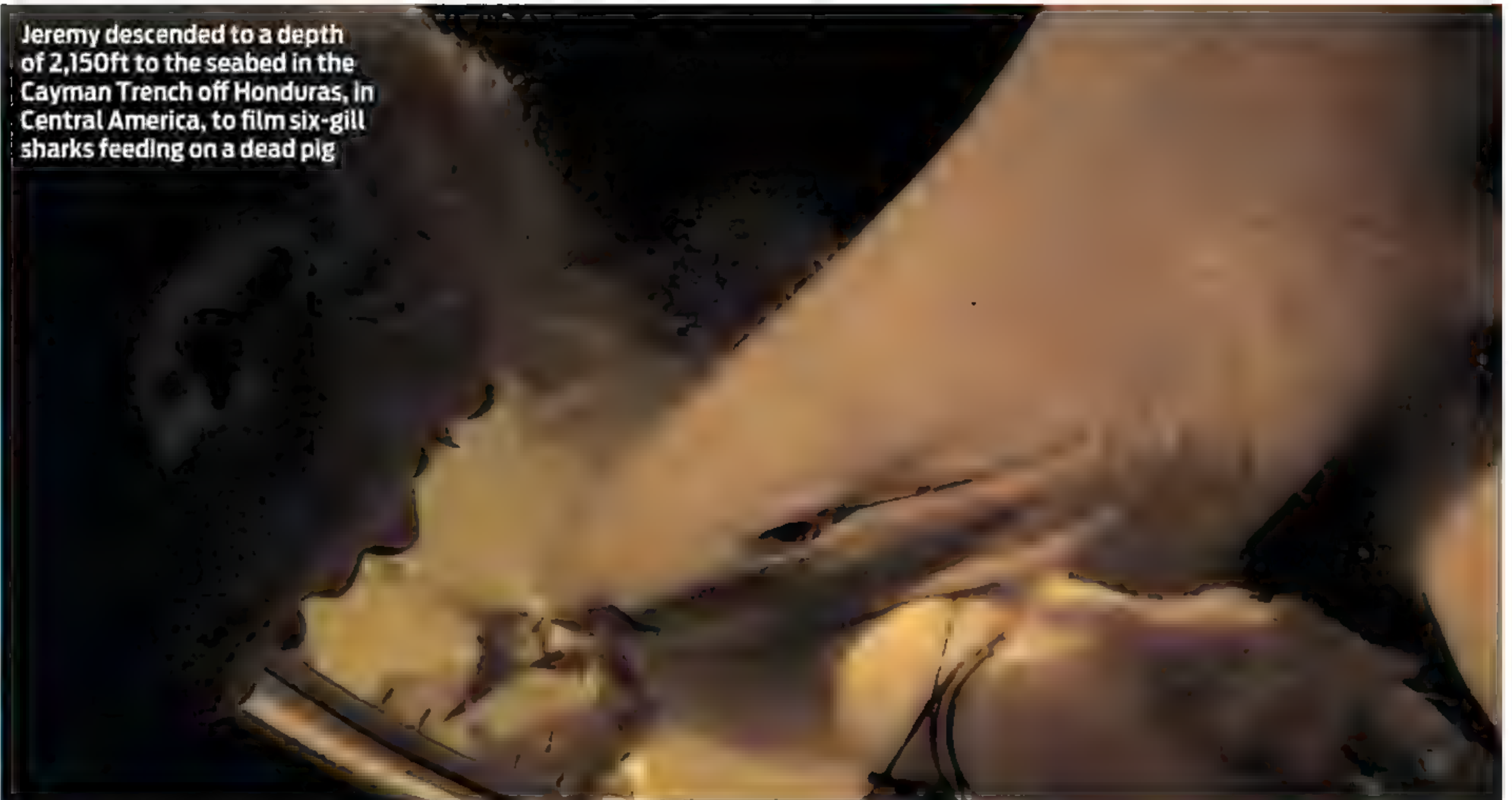
Jeremy's shows are hugely popular in the UK, throughout Europe and at many other locations around the world. In the US, however, they have assumed what can only be described as cult status, as I had found out in Naples. Why, I asked, was it that his shows have struck a cord with so many viewers, both among anglers and non-anglers?

"From the start we wanted our programmes to be of interest to the non-angling public, but we knew that this risked losing some anglers from our viewing figures. Everyone has a fascination with predators. As a species we are actually programmed to pay attention to what is going on within our environment in order to recognise and survive encounters with anything that is dangerous.

"We try to treat each episode differently, but each one contains something of a promise, which we usually reveal at the very end of the programme. Many of the subjects that we have filmed in freshwater have invariably been neglected by documentary film makers in the past, indeed some of the species we have filmed have rarely, if ever, been seen on television. It takes an angler to get these fish in front of the camera.

"Certainly the mass TV audience has something of a fascination with big, ugly and potentially dangerous species of fish, and this opening storyline is basically the

Jeremy descended to a depth of 2,150ft to the seabed in the Cayman Trench off Honduras, in Central America, to film six-gill sharks feeding on a dead pig



starting point for each and every programme.

"From the very beginning we set out for a broad appeal in viewers, and certainly succeeded, especially with the American audience. Stateside viewers usually prefer home-grown shows, but from the very first episode we screened there they went mad for the format we were using, which is roughly based upon a 40 per cent focus on the fish, and 60 per cent on everything else. Yes, we were an instant success."

Bearing in mind the extremely remote locations of many of the destinations he features, it takes a lot of time to get the correct footage for the show.

"Not counting prior research, which takes up a lot of man hours, each episode typically takes around three weeks, which includes perhaps just four days of actual fishing. Certainly during the past few years I have spent a huge amount of my time overseas filming at various locations," he confirmed.

TOP MEMORY

Of course, I had to ask Jeremy which one fish out of the countless incredible species he has caught has had the biggest impact, and sense of personal achievement for him. His answer came as no surprise.

"It has to be the 78lb Goliath tigerfish I caught when we were filming 'River Monsters' in the Democratic Republic of Congo," he answered without pausing to think. "I have been fascinated with this species for many years. Not only are Goliath's incredibly elusive and live in one of the most remote, largest and most inaccessible rivers on the planet, but also the Congo is an incredibly dangerous place, with lots of armed militia and numerous hazards to health, including malaria, which I caught there," he told me, as he held the jaws of that impressive fish.

If ever you want to read the most fascinating account of Jeremy's early experience fishing

This Pacific halibut was landed off Alaska and returned alive



for Goliath tigerfish, not to mention survival in the Congo (he went there twice in the early years), track down a copy of his first book. Co-written with Paul Boote, first edition copies of 'Somewhere Down A Crazy River,' are very collectible and priced accordingly. His second book, 'River Monsters,' is also a fascinating read for fresh and saltwater anglers alike.

What's next for Jeremy Wade? With a knowing grin, he told me: "We are actually in the process of considering a few options right now, and we hope to get the go ahead for a new series very soon. As to what and where, well that's a secret. You'll just have to be patient and see what we come up with."

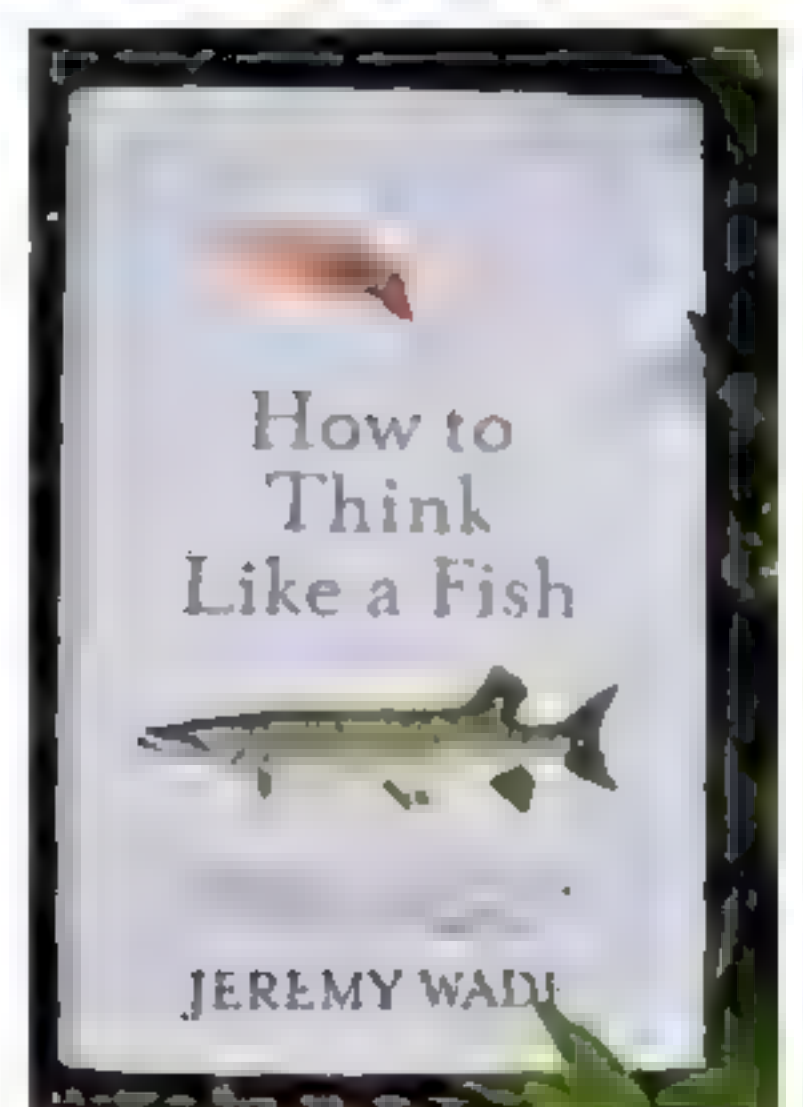
I for one will certainly look forward to sitting down to watch yet another series of what I regard as being some of the most interesting and informative fishing that I have ever enjoyed on television, both in fresh and saltwater.

Jeremy's latest book, 'How to Think Like a Fish,' was published in May. Far from being a conventional 'how to' guide, this book is

about simple fundamental principles of angling. It's billed as being a 'mindset for success,' – in other words how to think like a fish.

The book really is a fascinating read covering many aspects of angling, with chapters broken into sections looking at Source, Stream, Lake, River, Delta and Sea. The book is full of first-hand accounts of Jeremy's travels and adventures, and is sure to be of great interest for all anglers who enjoy sitting down with a good book, regardless of where or how they fish.

'How To Think Like A Fish' has a cover price of £20. For more information visit www.weidenfeldandnicolson.co.uk ■





Matching the hatch

Know what the bass are choosing from the menu and give them what they want...

TODAY'S SPECIALS

Peeler crabs

Ragworms

Sandeels

Shallow-diving lure

Baby sabikis

Clouser Minnow

Soft plastic

James Batty
is the author
of *The
Song of the
Solitary
Bass Fisher*,
published
by Merlin
Unwin
Books
(£14.99).



Flies for different days (anti-clockwise from top left) – these flies on size 8 and 6 hooks suggest jelly fry; the sabiki on a size 6 works when bass are chasing tiny sandeels; the white deer hair with a red tag on a size 2 is used when sandeels have grown a bit; the green and silver fly on a size 2/0 is used when whitebait are present



YOU WANDER INTO A PUB and look at the daily menu specials. At the top of the blackboard you see steak and mushroom pie with roast potatoes and a portion of cabbage. Perfect, crunchy spuds dunked in a rich gravy, your mouth starts to water.

Then the bartender says "Sorry, we've run out of pie." You have a cheeseburger instead. It's good, but you can't help mourning the loss of your steak and mushroom pie. That wouldn't have been good, it would have been perfect.

Bass don't read menus, but I reckon they lock in on specific foods as much as we do. They're not the most efficient converters of protein, so they need a lot of nourishment; and they tend to binge on whatever's thick on the ground and easy to catch.

When the water's full of sandeels, unhooking a bass can be like watching a film of someone with dodgy table manners and a bowl of noodles, but with the video running in reverse. Eel after eel comes slurping out of the fish's mouth. It's when a skinny plug or soft plastic, a long streamer fly or a sandeel bait can keep a bend in your rod and a grin on your face.

When the wave's thick with jelly fry, translucent nippers under 2cm long, that's what the bass will target. A big lure may attract some half-hearted interest, but I fare much better when I switch to a small flashy fly, something with the same profile as the fry.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Almost everyone I meet has an opinion about lures, flies, and baits. Often it's a strong belief in just one winner. "This Ayu coloured shallow diver is your only man," a lure fisher tells me. A fly-caster thinks a size 2 Clouser Minnow is unbeatable. A bait enthusiast says "Bass love peeler crabs, that's all I ever use." I beg to differ.

I've spent 50-something years fly-fishing for trout and that's taught me to find out what the fish are eating right now. Not what they like in general, not what they wanted last week or in the next stretch of water, what they're hunting here and now.

I've taken any number of trout on buzzer imitations, but when I see rudd fry scattering through the ripple, the buzzer goes back in its box and I put on a small streamer with some orange and gold in the tying. When trout are slashing at windborne crane flies I go with something to suggest a daddy longlegs.

Bass aren't as picky as trout. They're opportunistic omnivores, rather like

golden retrievers or healthy teenagers.

If it's edible there's a good chance they'll eat it. But experience tells me bass tend to home in on something specific and focus their gorging on that one type of prey.

A labrador or a human adolescent grazes through the fridge at random, but a feeding bass doesn't care about variety or a balanced diet. If the bottom's covered with lugworms or razor clams it will eat them until they're all gone or it's full.

READY MEALS

That's my theory, but now for the practical stuff, and I'll start with lures and flies. I find the key variable is size. When bass are bashing mackerel or launce, I want a big plug or a long soft plastic. When they're stuffing themselves with whitebait, I like a much smaller lure, maybe a little toby. When they're on micro-tiddlers, I use a fly, either on my fly-rod or fished on a dropper ahead of a spoon.

Take a May morning not long ago. I was on the rocks with my plugging gear and it was useless, dead as deep-frozen mutton. Then a chubby mackerel grabbed my shallow diver. As I put it into my bag I noticed my fingers were covered with tiny sandeels. They were 2-3cm long and so slim that I could see through them. In my pocket was a string of baby sabikis in size 6 that I use for launce and pilchards. I fished a single sabiki, a little wedge on the end so I could cast, and I released four bass in half-an-hour, the best 55cm.

On the way back to the car I ran into a chap with the grim look of someone who climbed out of bed at stupid o'clock, raced down to the water full of anticipation, and found he might as well have stayed at home and fished in the kitchen sink. He was using a skinny popping plug and he'd had nothing. I offered him my bite-sized sabiki. He looked sceptical, but he was either game enough or desperate enough to give it a bash, and he caught a fish on his second cast.

Now you might wonder why a decent-sized bass would bother with something as small as an infant sandeel with an eating disorder. After all, bass need lots of nutrition; a tiny fleck of a fry doesn't seem to fit the bill. But often there's an inverse relationship between size and density.

Mackerel and big sandeels swim in shoals, but they're like motorway drivers who actually pay attention to the chevron lane markings – they keep their distance from one another.

On the other hand, mini-tiddlers move around in almost solid clouds, a predator can open its mouth and grab several at a time. At least that's what I reckon and I'm sticking to my story.

Another outing was in late July. For a week or so I'd been seeing sandeels of 6-7cm and sport had been good to a small shad or a slim diving plug. That morning I might as well have been fishing a flabby chip dunked in bad curry sauce. Not even a disapproving swirl behind the lure.

I was about to call it a day when I peered into a deep rock pool. There were a couple of joey mackerel darting around like synchronised swimmers on an amphetamine jag. If these two little chaps had been stranded in a pool I reckoned the wave must have been rammed with mackerel. A blue-backed 14cm Maria Angel Kiss soon produced a five-pounder.

BAIT FISHING

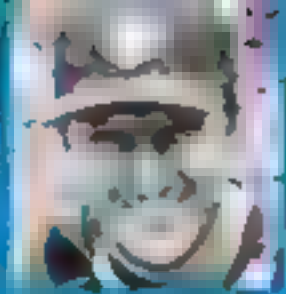
When it comes to bait-fishing, my thinking's much the same. I try to use something the bass might be feeding on already. If I'm on a beach where lugworm diggers ply their trade, lug might be a good choice. On hard, white, gritty sand, where any lugworms would show up only because of a dicky sat-nav, I prefer to use a ragworm or sandeel.

When a late autumn storm covers the shoreline with razor clam shells or dead squid, those are my first choices. And when the day boats are after mackerel I'll lob out a whole joey or a bit of a big one. Usually it's a joey or a blood-and-gutsy head. Fat mackerel are candidates for hot smoking on my barbeque. Delicious, which means it's only little ones and leftovers that go into the bait freezer.

Does it work? Do I catch more bass by matching the hatch? I think so, largely because I often run into a blanker, offer a few kind words and a different lure or bait, and watch disaster turn into triumph. Of course, that could be down to blind luck or maybe my aura envelops the other bod with its fishy magic.

My aura, by the way, is a faint but recognisable smell of putrid mackerel and rotten squid. It comes from forgetting stuff in my jacket pockets. The absent-minded should always keep spare bait in a box or a bag.

One thing I know for sure, I have more fun by trying to offer the bass today's menu special. When sport's slow I don't just wonder where to try next, I also wonder what to try next. Thinking about bass makes me smile, it's one of the pleasures of my life. It also keeps my mind off things like steak and mushrooms; and if you're on the shore a couple of hours before first light, when all the shops and cafés are shut, you don't want to start lusting after a pie.



Highland flingers



Visiting the vast saltwater lochs provides super sport for anglers fishing ultra-light



Top left: My Hart
Bloody Offshore
Evo Light rod

Top right: I
managed to
bag a scorpion

Left: Graeme
Neilson with
his codling



DRIP, DRIP, DRIP IS THE SOUND that awoke me at 4am, the gentle patter of summer rain through my leaking roof. This is not the sound you want to hear when you are due to drive north west to the sea lochs.

Silently cursing, I found an assortment of kitchenware to catch the water before retiring back to bed to get another few hours' sleep before I left.

I couldn't sleep. My mind raced over tactics, likely species and the thought of searching new ground. For me, it was a journey into the unknown, a visit to Loch Leven, a sea loch that I have never fished before.

My buddy Graeme Neilson arrived at 8am to begin our journey and as I grumbled and stumbled my gear into the car I felt exhausted before we'd even started. The drive took us two-and-a-half hours, going through the magnificent Glen Coe and stunning wilderness that is the north west of Scotland.

Our excitement built, and by the time we arrived at the shore I had transformed back into a super-keen fishing machine. Not even the sideways rain nor the roaring westerly wind could put a dent in my excitement of fishing a new loch.

Our tactics were simple – travel light with LRF gear and HRF gear, explore and fish new ground. The great thing about this tactic is everywhere is fair game to fish. There was no particular mark we had to hit to find fish, just simply find a place to park and go for it.

NEW VENUE

Being new to the venue I had no preconceptions, but a quick study of the shoreline gave the game away about the type of ground we would be fishing. The gentle sloping shore of the loch was made up of shards of packed slate and shale, making an extremely snaggy seabed. A fringe of weed extended about 8ft from the shore before sloping away into deep, clear water. In short, it looked very fishy indeed.

We were both armed with LRF rods and my go-to rig for deep water is a weedless dropshot rig. It gives an excellent finesse presentation, but with enough weight to get the lure down to the seabed quickly. This extra weight was important due to the wind gusting up to 50mph. The great thing about the sea lochs is that even in a wind it is possible to fish safely, but it can limit your tactics.

My dropshot rig incorporates a size 6 slim offset hook on 8lb fluorocarbon with a 10g dropshot weight. Having a weight that just clips on and can be dumped when snagged is invaluable in snaggy areas, especially over this tightly-packed shale ground.

I use this dropshot rig as a searching tool. I get a lot of feedback about the type of the seabed by simply casting out, allowing the rig to sink to the bottom and then, with a slow retrieve, gently bumping the weight back towards me. It's amazing how much an LRF rod with braid will let me feel as the weight trips along, ranging from a soft, dull feeling as it drags through silt, to a harsh tapping as it hits rock. I can even feel the difference between types of seaweed. ▶



The weird and wonderful scorpion fish

This rig allows me to work the lure by feel, and pause and work it once you feel structure, weed or a change in the seabed. Ultimately, these areas act as hotspots for the fish, and using this tactic with this rig can help you find the fish fairly quickly.

DROPSHOT TACTICS

Our plan was just to start casting and work along the shore so we could end up fishing in the lee side of the little headlands and coves around the loch.

We both rigged our dropshot rigs with Gulp! sandworms and began casting. My technique was to cast as far as I could and work the rig back with a slow, steady retrieve while all the time twitching the rod tip.

We started getting hits straight away but no hook-ups. My rig ended up in a snag; fishing at a new mark undoubtedly means a few lost rigs or weights. However, with each cast you build up a picture of the structure beneath the water. It didn't take long at all for us to start catching codling, which always put a satisfying bend in the rod. I was about 50 yards from Graeme and could also see he was into fish. The next 20 minutes were spent with us both catching lots of them.

Graeme was first with some different species, a poor cod and a small ballan wrasse. With fish biting after every cast, I carried on with the same retrieve while watching Graeme hooking into another fish. As always we played 'guess the fish' and were convinced it was another wrasse, but it was a tadpole fish.

I reeled in and rushed over to see this specimen of a fish. It was a really good size and fascinating, being an amazing deep-water predator with a cavernous mouth lined with sharp teeth. Its jet-black colouring made it look more like a small Anime dragon than a fish. It was the first one I have seen and I think they are now my favourite fish.

Graeme's technique of the long pause, particularly on the bottom of the slope he was fishing, had produced four species to my one. Finally, I managed a scorpion fish among the codling before we moved further along



It didn't take long to start catching codling



A surprise tadpole fish

Some big pollack smashed our metal lures



the shoreline to give the HRF gear and metals a workout.

FANTASTIC METALS

My HRF set-up is a Hart Bloody Offshore Evo Light rod rated 5-30g, with 3500-size reel, 25lb braid and a 16lb fluoro leader.

On the business end I would use my trusted metals, the Hart Bony, Hart Rotar and Hart Delta Force. These are fantastic metals and I have had more fish on the Hart Bony than any other lure.

The three lures have different actions – the Bony has a unique flutter on the drop and casts like a missile, the Rotar is a flatter, wider lure with a slow flutter, while the Delta Force is a slim sandeel-type metal with a faster, fluttering drop.

They all had the addition of luminous strike points. Just like with my deep-water dock tactics, these luminous points on the lures really make a difference.

Technique-wise, it was simply a case of casting out and allowing the lure to sink in a controlled fashion. Here it was really important to feel the lure down because many bites would come as the lure dropped.

Switching from LRF mode to HRF meant that we were really used to fishing by feel. This sensitive way of fishing can help to avoid the snags. Once the lure had made it down to depth, it was simply jigged back.

Bites were thick and fast, with some big codling and pollack smashing the metal lures. It was a challenge to land the fish as the fringe of weed that lined the shoreline hid multiple snags. The trick was to really put the pressure on as the fish came towards the shore, and pumping them up above the snag zone. However, a last-minute dive by the fish could see them finding the snags. When this happened, the only option was to give the

fish slack line and allow it to swim out. This worked surprisingly well.

Quite often they would use the weeds and slack line to free themselves, but as they were all going back, we were none too bothered. In fact, it was hard to be bothered by anything, such as the great fishing and magnificent scenery.

By the time we decided to call it a day we were wet through, but utterly elated. We never expected our first foray on the loch to go so well.

The potential number of species that can be caught from the sea lochs is amazing. We certainly didn't expect it to give up its secrets so easily, but the combination of sensitive gear and 'confidence lures' meant we had a red letter day from a unique and beautiful place, and I will most certainly be going back to hunt those deep-water dragons. ■

Hart Bony and Hart Rotar metals



My go-to rig for deep water is a weedless dropshot rig

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Young fish willpower and stamina are required to land big, ragged-tooth sharks like this monster

TWENTY YEARS AGO, my friend Steve McGuire discovered a unique fishing opportunity in Namibia on the west coast of Africa. At the time, I was operating safaris across a few African countries, and during my spare time I enjoyed many happy days fishing with him and his clients.

As a result, Walvis Bay, Swakupmund and Henties Bay will remain in the memories of many fisherman who ventured out to Namibia to do battle with the incredible bronze whaler sharks or 'bronzies'.

The locations were remote and the fishing hectic. Commonly, four or five clients would

catch 15 or more sharks between them in a day, and all would catch at least one in excess of 100kg during a few days of fishing.

With excellent handling practices and tagging programmes, everything was looking sustainable for this world-class sport fishery. Sadly, and in this case tragically, all good things must come to an end. In 2005 the first of the Chinese commercial fishing boats began decimating the shark population with an efficiency that was truly chilling.

Part way through 2006, sport fishing for sharks along this coast was no longer viable for paying clients and Steve brought his activities to a close.

Fast-forward almost 15 years and the shark population in Namibia and Angola have yet to

recover, but I have found a fishing destination that offers sport surpassing the heyday of these historic fishing areas. The new areas are located on the stunning coastline of South Africa's Eastern Cape. Here, the southern Indian Ocean is cool and hugely nutrient-rich, sustaining incredible fish populations including many species of shark.

This new destination has more to offer than Namibia in terms of vast areas of unfished shoreline, breathtaking locations and an incredible array of large fish species. As well as thriving shark populations, the Ocean here is alive with large fish like kob, garrick and the black mussel cracker, as well as monsters like the giant black stingray.

The species list is far too long to detail, but

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the main large sharks are the grey to 200kg-plus, tiger to 300kg-plus, ragged-tooth to 200kg-plus, bronze whalers to 150kg-plus and three types of hammerhead. Not to be included on the target list is the legendary Great White, which is protected by law in South Africa.

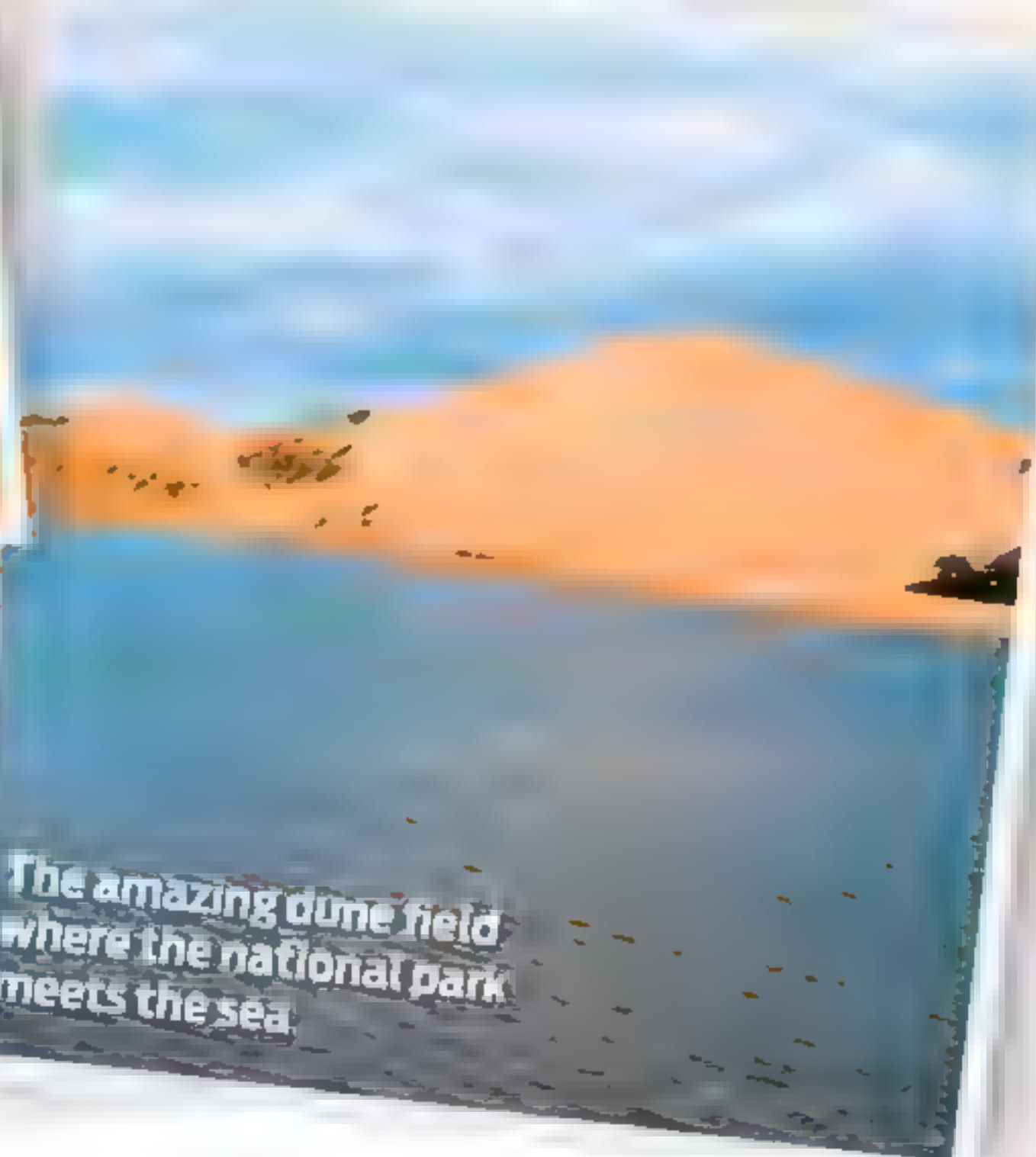
BEST TIME

While good sport can be had at any time, the best for sharks is from November to March (summer). However, it would be remiss not to mention the epic 'sardine run' around June/July. At this time, an estimated five billion sardines are swept northwards along the eastern coast as cold water surges from the south.



Fishing is at the Addo Elephant National Park

At certain pinch points along the coastline, the sardines are concentrated in a bewildering density and attract the largest concentration of predators anywhere on Earth. The frenzied feasting that ensues provides one of nature's most spectacular



The amazing dune field where the national park meets the sea

events. Thousands of large sharks and tens of thousands of diving gannets embark on a sustained attack on the sardines, lasting for several weeks.

If you know where to go and conditions are favourable, some unique fishing can be experienced. For instance, would you fancy a spot of shallow wading in the surf while sight fishing for three-metre-plus sharks?

TOP LOCATION

Travelling to this exciting shark fishing haven is quite straightforward. Jump on an international flight to Johannesburg. On arrival it is a simple matter of walking to the domestic departure area and catching a flight to East London or Port Elizabeth. There is no need to leave the airport as the terminals are connected. The domestic flight is just over one hour.

Central to many locations is the Addo Elephant National Park, the third largest in South Africa that encompasses the Alexandria dune field, which is the largest and most pristine coastal dune field in the southern hemisphere.

Driving on beaches in South Africa is, in general, forbidden, however your guide will know a hidden track that will get you as close as possible to the hotspots. You do need to walk a little, but this can be an enjoyable part of the experience. There are always porters on hand to carry the tackle and provisions. Some locations require a considerable yomp across steep sand dunes, but if you aren't up to this, then there are always other options.

Tackle used to beach one of these leviathan sharks is highly specialised. You'll use immensely powerful rods with unfeasibly long handles to allow for the specialised casting technique required to launch baits and sinkers over 1kg way out into the blue. Two favourites are the Berkley Medusa at 15ft 6in and the Okuma Makira at 15ft.

There are also powerhouse fixed-spool reels (known locally as grinders), such as the Penn Slammer III in 10500 size and the Shimano Saragossa 25000. Both are capable of holding more than 800 metres of 65lb modern braid.

The drag power of the new generation fixed-spool reels is incredible.

To combat the rough skin of sharks, a braided four-metre leader of about 300lb connects to the hooklength made of one metre of 300-400lb wire trace. Hooks are size 12/0 to 16/0, and for shark welfare we only use circle hooks. With an intuned point, it is easy to see why so many are reluctant to use them, but as long as you don't strike on the take, circle hooks are fantastic.

Even with such substantial pieces of ironmongery and the toughness of a large shark's mouth, it is straightforward to remove the hook by hand without any specialised unhooking equipment. Furthermore, should a shark break the line on a rock or empty the spool, as soon as the pressure is taken off a circle hook it will quickly drop away safely.

One of the best baits is a whole gill section of a small sand shark, wrapped in an oily fish fillet whipped on with elastic. It gives a controlled release of scent. With such powerful currents, a straight gill section would be washed out in minutes.

In summer, temperatures on the beach can be well into the high 30s and the strength of the sun is dangerous. After 18 years of fishing many hot locations around the world, I favour covering up completely with modern hi-tech clothing that is super thin and cool, while affording almost a 100 per cent sun block. I use sun cream on my hands, cheeks and nose while using a Buff-type snood to cover as much of my face as possible.

TOUGH CHALLENGE

It all sounds like a relaxing fishing experience, and so it is...until you get a bite! Out of the blue, your rod will arch over in its stand and line will pull from the reel, sometimes slowly, but at other times so fast it seems like the spool is going to take off.

Now it's time to step up to one of angling's toughest challenges, fighting a huge and angry shark from the shore. Even the heftiest of guys will be wrenched forward as the line tightens and the circle hook finds its mark. It is likely that even with a modest-sized shark the first run will be in excess of 200 metres, usually more.

At this point it is important not to fight, but find a body position whereby you can 'lock up' and simply keep in contact with the shark. You are not going to stop it, so don't waste energy trying. The time to show off your physical prowess is when the shark decides its bored and stops. Then you pump with everything you've got.

No doubt you will feel elated as you gain metre after metre of line hauling probably the biggest fish of your life towards the shore. This excitement is premature. After you gain a few metres, expect your adversary to be irritated and head out into the blue yonder.

A minimum of 40 minutes later, expect to have experienced at least four or five back-breaking runs with some intermittent gains on your part. By now, every muscle in your body is burning. Just when you think you can't take anymore, it happens, the huge

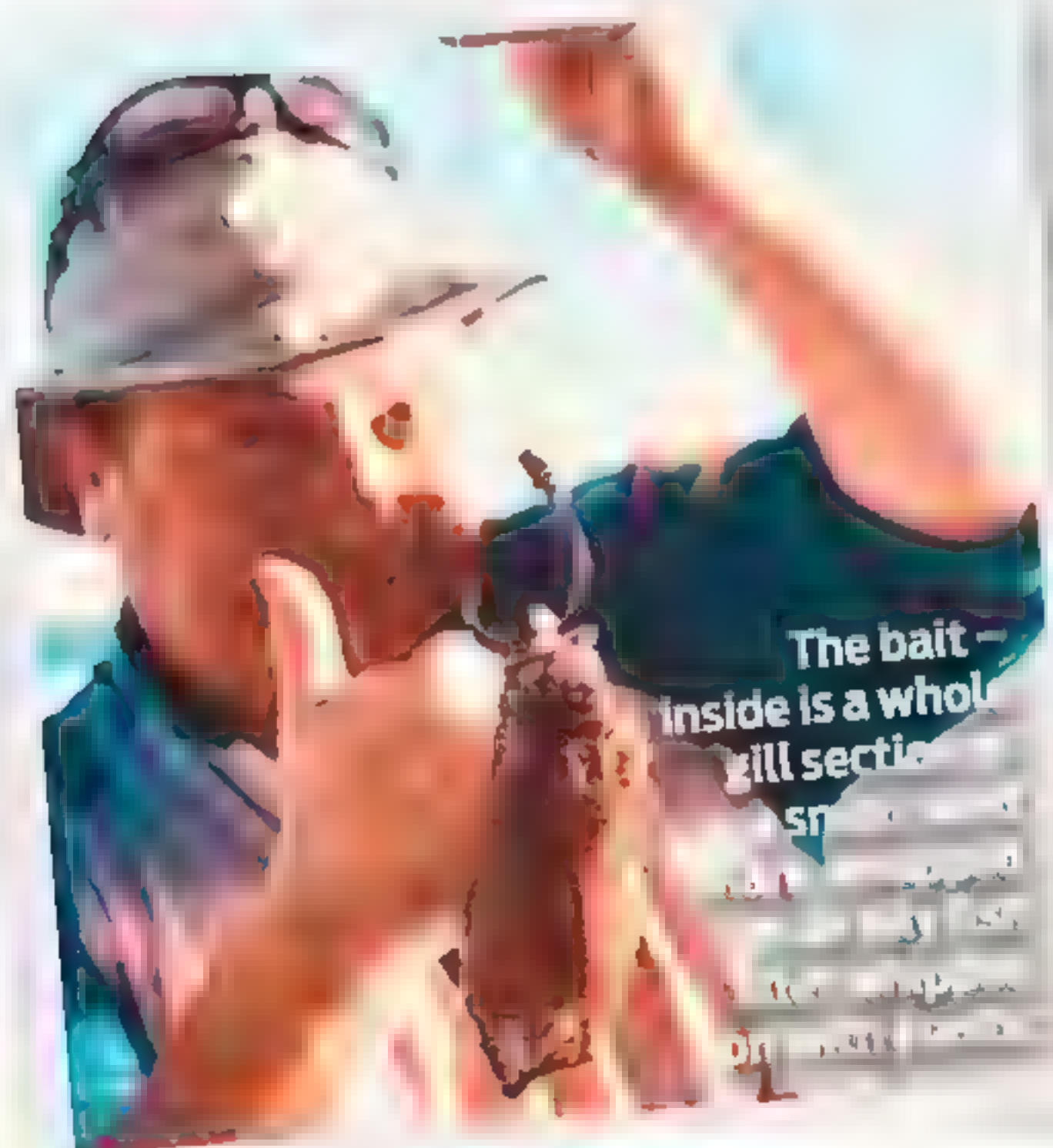


dorsal fin, the archetypal vision of sea-based horror movies, breaks the surface, reminding you of why you are here in the first place – to capture one of our sport's ultimate prizes.

It is time to increase the pressure even more as the intimidating dorsal fin parts the water at alarming speed. It's not over yet. A decent-sized shark will do its best to stay behind the second or third breaker for another 10 or 20 minutes. Unfortunately, a big shark may charge right out into the ocean once more and you will have to start all over again.

Assume this a modest-sized shark, say 150kg or so. Finally, you have him just behind the final breaker. At this range every lunge from the shark will yank you towards the water. It is at this point you experience the raw strength of these incredible animals. Now for the hard bit. Our toothy friend really will not want to come through that final breaker, so it is time to increase the pressure and take the tackle to its limits.

You are unlikely to succeed on your first or second attempt, but come through that breaker it must. With jelly-like thighs and just as you feel that you can't take any more, suddenly the guides will run into the surf to the shark, which is thrashing the water to a foam. When you see the rope appear and someone bend down behind the shark's tail you are nearly there. All you must do now, with one final effort, is clamp down and keep the shark still for a few seconds while the tail is lassoed. When someone's arm shoots into the air the game is won, you've done it.





At last you can lower your rod and straighten your back. Now is your chance to see one of nature's most wonderful creatures at close quarters. Everything happens very quickly because it's all about the shark's welfare. The guides will gently manoeuvre the shark on to some wet sand just on the edge of the surf. It's hard to explain the elation you feel while having some photos taken, mementos that you will cherish for a lifetime.

WATCH IN AWE

Depending on location and species, the shark may be tagged for research purposes. Immediately after this the team will turn its toothy head into the first breaker. Now it's time to watch in awe as the powerful tail sweeps from side to side and the formidable dorsal fin sinks beneath the white foam.

After dark is a magical time when you can sit by a driftwood fire with the sea breeze on your face while the rhythm of the ocean soothes your soul. To be this relaxed while feeling the excitement of scanning for a breaching Southern Wright whale or pod of dolphins playing along the waves is something special.

Some evenings you'll be treated to the ocean's bioluminescent display; this other-worldly planktonic spectacle varies from jaw-dropping explosions of electric blue light following the line of the breakers to gentle pulses of light around your feet as you tread the wet sand.

There we have it, after years of searching, giant shore-caught sharks are well and truly back on the adventure anglers' map. ■

Jason shows off the business end of a ragged-tooth shark (above left) and admires a fine bronze whaler (above right)

WANT MORE?

Jason Rodd has been organising and hosting fishing trips to Africa and other parts of the world, such as India and Colombia since 2000. Find him on Facebook or on Instagram at [jasonroddfishing](#). Tel: 07741 853444.

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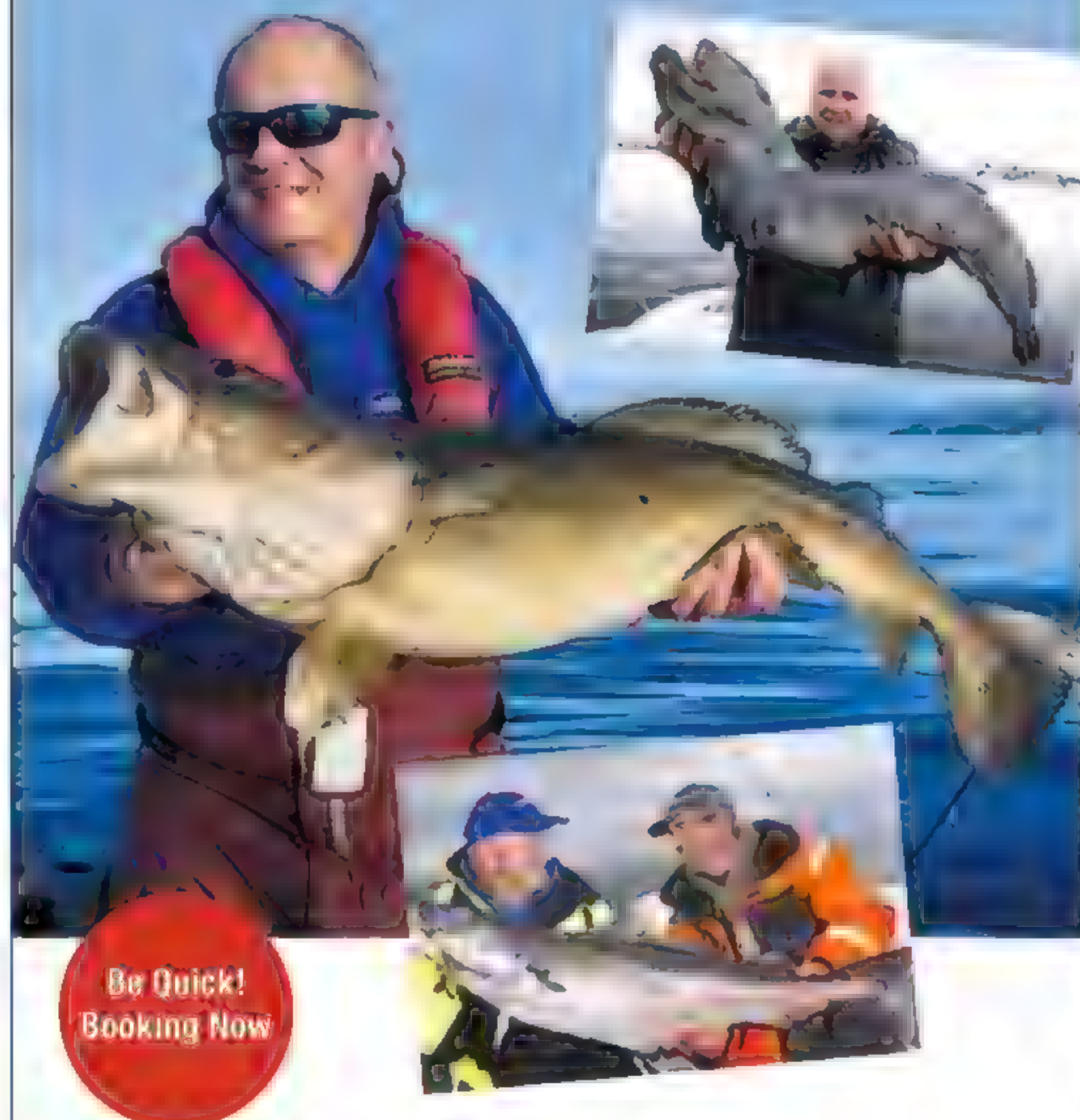


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TAGGING BLOW

Skippers told they cannot charge for tuna research trips

A TWO-YEAR TUNA TAGGING SCHEME IN UK waters has been dealt a blow with charter skippers told they are banned from charging anglers to help out.

Recently, the UK's official bluefin tuna research programme, the ThunnusUK project, announced last year's tagging operations would be expanded from the South Cornwall coastline to include efforts in Welsh waters, specifically the Celtic Deep, this year. No recreational angler involvement will be permitted in the Welsh operation in 2019.

Organised by the University of Exeter and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS), it is planned to tag 40 tuna over the two years. It is unclear if the 2018 tagging was deemed successful or how costly it proved to be, but CEFAS has told skippers it wants to deploy 30 tags in 2019, which suggests only 10 were deployed in 2018 when recreational anglers were not involved.

For this year's Cornish programme, based around Falmouth Bay, ThunnusUK has allowed recreational anglers to participate in

the 'capture' operations on support vessels working alongside the scientist's tagging boat. Skippers of MCA-coded vessels were invited to register their interest by the end of June.

However, Thunnus UK is currently suggesting that participating 'support' vessels will not be able to charge anglers, requiring this to be a volunteer operation, financed from the pockets of vessel skippers/owners.

In a letter inviting skippers to express an interest, CEFAS said: "As the dispensation is for scientific purposes only, the Marine Management Organisation mandate that paying anglers are not permitted on vessels involved in the programme." Skippers will be paid a per-fish bonus of £150 plus VAT for each bluefin caught and supplied to the tagging team.

It is bound to anger charter skippers who considered tendering for the work, while others fear that, if charges are permitted, a proportion of the fee could go to the tagging programme, which is funded by DEFRA.

As a result, the Angling Trust is seeking clarity. David Mitchell, Head of Marine at the

Angling Trust said: "We see no reason why UK charter skippers/vessel owners should be restricted from even covering their costs, a decision which is likely to severely limit the desire of skippers/owners to get involved."

While welcoming angler involvement, Steve Murphy, director of Bluefin Tuna UK, which has been campaigning for a fully-fledged UK recreational catch and release bluefin fishery, commented: "It risks being significantly undermined by the bizarre decision from the MMO to refuse support vessel participants the ability to even cover their costs via chartering, while paying the tagging vessels up to £1,000 a day in charter fees."

In Ireland, up to 15 vessels will be involved in tagging, and skippers can charge anglers. These boats must be individually authorised, with training given to crews, and they must adhere to guidelines laid out by the Irish Fisheries Board. The Irish project will operate from August to October, and recreational anglers will be able to take part (legally, at last) by chartering one of the 15 vessels.



Reassurance over anti-angling claims

Following reports in two national newspapers that changes to the RSPCA could see the animal welfare charity fall under the influence of a 'hardline anti-angling faction', the Angling Trust has secured a commitment that the rumours are baseless.

Angling Trust policy chief, Martin Salter, wrote to RSPCA chief executive, Chris Sherwood, to seek clarification. In reply, the RSPCA boss wrote: "I am sorry that these inaccurate stories have caused problems for you and your members. May I take this opportunity to reassure you, and your members, that the RSPCA has no plans to campaign for a ban on angling."

Mr Salter said: "We're pleased to have secured such a clear commitment that anglers and angling are not in the RSPCA's sights. However, there are animal rights extremists who would like to stop us fishing for pleasure, and the Angling Trust will always be vigilant in defending the right to fish and promoting all the good we do for the environment on which our sport depends."

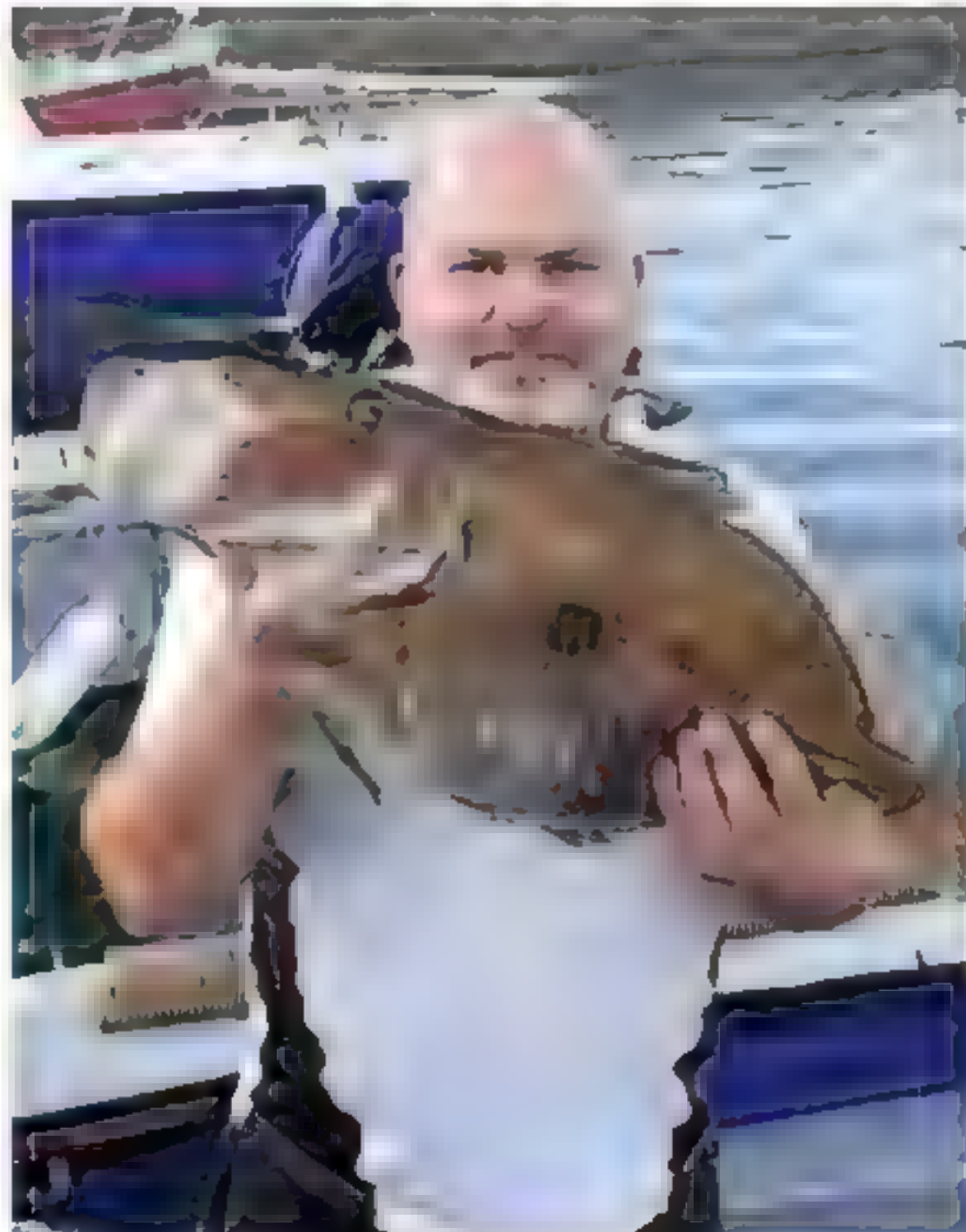
JOHN DORY TICKED OFF BUCKET LIST

John Parker, 74, has been a sea angler for many years catching some impressive fish, but finally caught one of the few remaining fish on his bucket list – a John Dory (below).

He was fishing out of Plymouth on Mirage, skippered by Dave Uren. His catch list includes a 28lb 5oz cod, 86lb

conger, 198lb common skate, 130lb sailfish and 340lb marlin.

Also catching a John Dory was Daniel Amy (below). While fishing for turbot at Guernsey's Great Bank, he boated this 8lb 6oz specimen. The angler, from Guernsey, was fishing from his own boat when the fish took a live sandeel.



42lb COD ON SEVENTH TRIP

It was lucky seven for Bill Cosgrove (below left) when he caught a massive 42lb cod on a charter trip from the Shetland Islands.

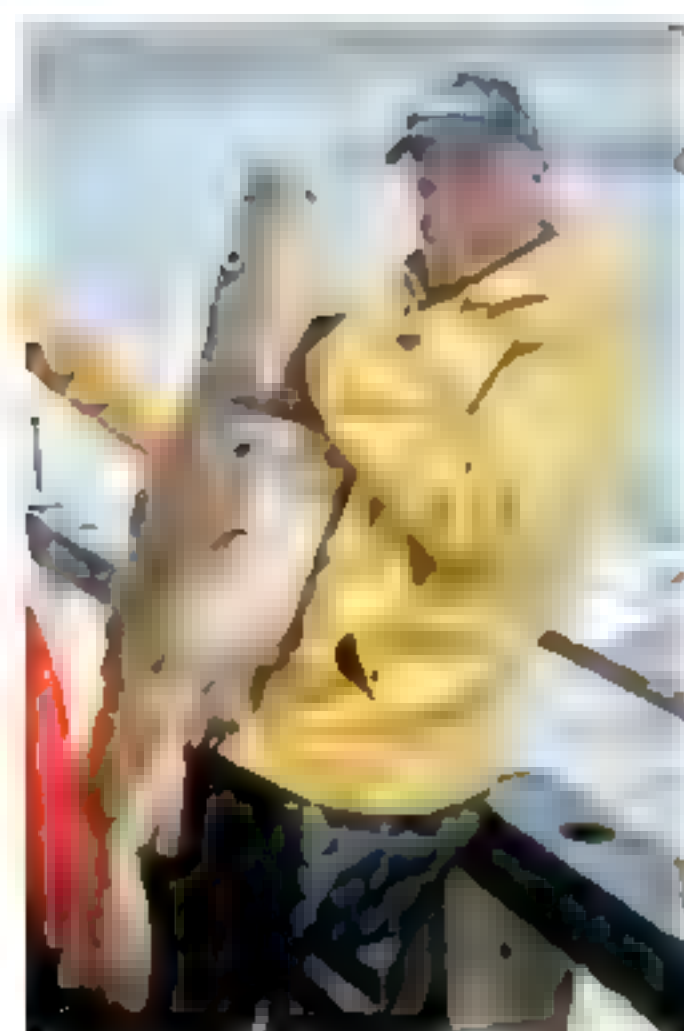
The 67-year-old angler, from Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, was fishing out of Cullivoe, on the island of Yell, on Kenny Graham's boat Oberon, when he caught the big fish on a gummimac lure.

"This was the seventh time that I've been out with Kenny and every trip we have broken personal-best records for several species," he said. "This time was no different, with a 42lb cod. I have been fishing for 60 years and I don't think I will catch a better fish than this."

The Shetland water also produced a superb 41lb ling on a coalfish bait for Paul Adams (below centre), from Rayleigh. The Essex angler was fishing with four friends on John Keggie's Yell Rebel, out of Cullivoe. His ling was the biggest, but there were cod to 32lb, including a 24-pounder for Paul, pollack to over 17lb and coalfish to 21lb.

The same area produced a 36lb cod and 26lb ling for Mark Connor (below right), of Edinburgh, who fished from Compass Rose, out of Cullivoe.

While fishing out of Sunderland, Neil Evans, of Durham, caught a 20lb 2oz cod. He was on Northeastern Charters.



■ Fishing the coast of North Wales, Brychan Raymant and Jac Wood caught four tope to 42lb. They used mackerel fillet baits on running leger rigs with 200lb

hooklengths carrying circle hooks. "It was by far the best angling experience of our lives from the shore," said Brychan, who lives at Morfa Nefyn.



■ When Dave Bait caught an 11lb 6oz bass, it made his day, but on the next drop he caught and released another of 12lb. The angler, from Ramsgate, was on the local charter boat Skerry Belle, when he caught both fish on whole squid at a rough ground mark four miles offshore.



■ Chris Davies took 55 minutes to land this common skate, estimated to weigh 135lb, while shore fishing in Scotland.

The angler, from Penmaenmawr, North Wales, fished a pulley rig with size 14/0 hook and 10/0 hooks baited with a 2lb pollack, two Bluey and a mackerel. The fish was returned.



■ An angler fishing off Portland Bill, Dorset, boated an estimated 200lb porbeagle shark on a 20lb-class rod. Mark Calver (above), of Cheltenham, Glos, was fishing on Dan Clarke's Fins Up, out of Portland. A similar size fish was caught by Isaac James, while on Phat Cat, out of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.



■ This 11lb 8oz bass, caught on a 20g white Toby lure is a personal best for John Roberts. The angler, from Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, was fishing in Morecambe Bay with a Grauvell Teklon lure rod and Penn Spinfisher VI 3500 reel loaded with 20lb Spiderwire braid.

■ Neil Hogg, of the Mineral Crew fishing team, caught this halibut (right) estimated at 100lb while kayak fishing at Vannoya island, Tromso, Norway. It took a 2lb coalfish deadbait and dived eight times to 200ft.

A 53lb cod fell to Dave Jones (right), of Uckfield, East Sussex, while fishing out of the Vesteralen Fishing camp in Norway.

Successful bait was a coalfish flapper on a size 10/0 circle hook on a 150lb mono trace. It was taken about 25 miles to the west of Vesteralen. He also caught cod of 42lb and 30lb cod on the same day, and also enjoyed plenty of sport with coalies to 15lb and other cod to 25lb.

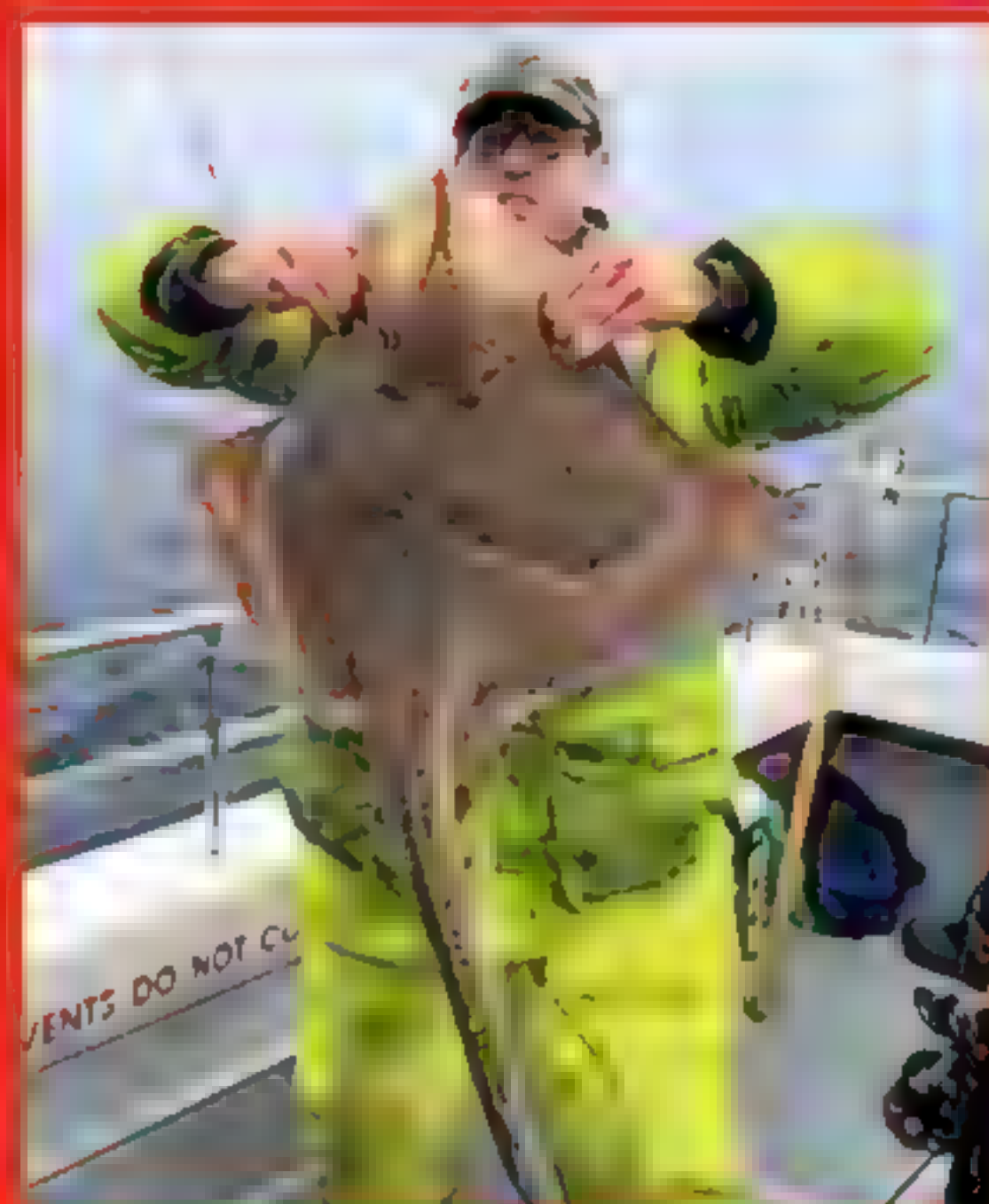


■ A two-hook dropper rig with size 4 BMX hooks carrying a mackerel fillet produced this 19lb turbot for Jason Budge. The angler, from Taunton, Somerset, caught it during a charter trip on Fish On 2, skippered by Josh Simmonds, out of Weymouth, Dorset.



■ Wirral angler Paul Taylor (above) caught a blue shark, estimated at 130-140lb, when he fished aboard Phat Cat charters, skippered by Craig Deans, out of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.

On the same boat, Mike Wallis (left), the man behind Wally's Shark Rigs, caught a 60lb blue. The angler, from Cirencester, Glos, caught it on a mackerel that had been bridle-hooked to a Mustad barbless circle hook.

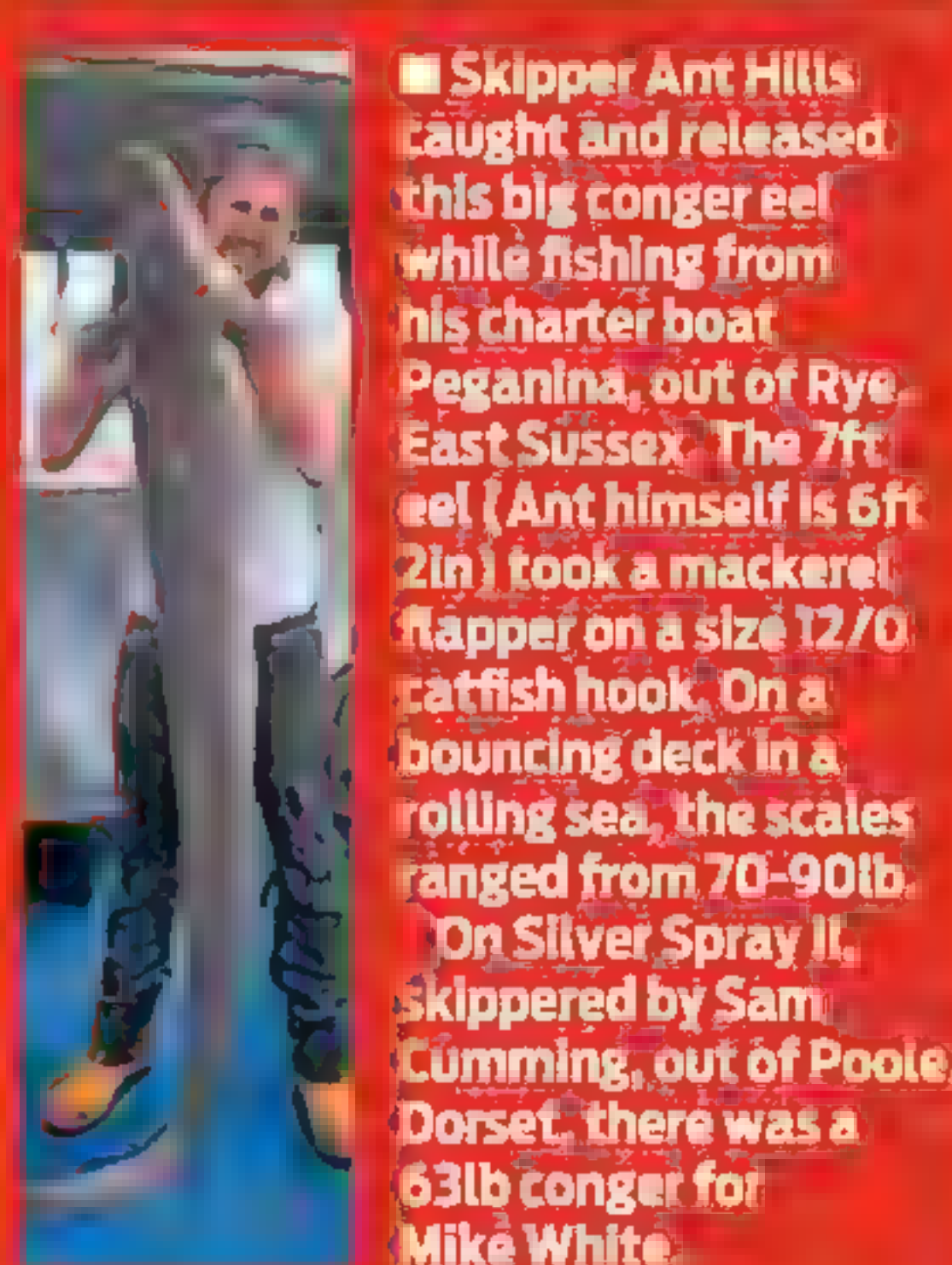


■ During a trip on Terra, out of Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, local angler Damian Devlin caught an 18lb spurdog and 21lb blonde ray.



■ Kayak angler Dale Hewitt (above), of the Mineral Crew fishing club, caught a 50lb tope after launching at Withernsea, East Yorks. The fish took a whole fresh mackerel.

On a charter trip, Gareth Gulliford (left), from Pontypool, caught a personal best tope, weighing 35lb, when he fished off Lundy Island, aboard Anchorman, skippered by Dave Bobbett, out of Penarth.



■ Skipper Ant Hills caught and released this big conger eel while fishing from his charter boat Paganina, out of Rye, East Sussex. The 7ft eel (Ant himself is 6ft 2in) took a mackerel flapper on a size 12/0 catfish hook. On a bouncing deck in a rolling sea, the scales ranged from 70-90lb. On Silver Spray II, skippered by Sam Cumming, out of Poole, Dorset, there was a 63lb conger for Mike White.



Fight for more

Bass could be out of the worst danger but pressure is needed to raise our bag limit

Great news for sea anglers – on June 28, ICES published its 2020 sea bass advice, and although management measures are still needed to grow the stock back to a truly safe level, it is now out of the very worst danger.

When it was below Blim there was a high risk that the stock would not be able to regenerate itself and would remain depleted for an extended period.

Fishing pressure on bass has been cut by three-quarters and the most unsustainable commercial bass fishing has been banned. More campaigning is needed to create an abundant stock with more big bass, but we should feel proud of what we have already achieved.

However, there is a fly in the ointment. Last month the EU Commission and the French Fishery Minister rejected the UK Fishery Minister's proposal that sea anglers should have their bag limit increased to two fish per day for the rest of 2019. This is an outrage for two reasons.

First, the current one-fish bag limit is a disproportionate measure that should never have been agreed by Fishery Ministers in the first place. As the most sustainable stakeholders in the bass fishery, sea anglers' share of the total catch should have increased as unsustainable fishing methods have been cut. But instead, we have seen our share of the catch decrease because the one-fish bag limit was an unfair and overly-harsh restriction.

Second, the EU Commission's position is not supported by the science. The scientists have estimated the tonnage impact for different bag limits for a seven-month season as follows:

1 fish per day	272 tonnes
2 fish per day	334 tonnes
3 fish per day	362 tonnes

Yet the EU Commission has said that increasing the bag limit to two fish per day could double the tonnage impact of sea anglers. Our message is simple: respect the science and don't make up numbers.

The EU Commission has also tried to argue that there is little point in increasing the bag limit since only a small number of expert sea anglers would be able to make use of it. We have seen no data that supports this contention.

All sea anglers need is a 90-tonne increase in their share in 2020 to give them a three-fish bag limit. Now the stock has improved, and there are more than 90 tonnes available to be allocated in 2020, the EU Commission and the Fishery Ministers should use this first to right the wrong that has been done to sea anglers.

The EU Commission's public consultation for 2020 fishing opportunities is now open. If you would like the bag limit increased, go to the Save Our Sea Bass website at: www.saveourseabass.org where it is easy for you to reply. ■



■ Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on www.ukbass.com or on Facebook or Twitter.

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READER STORY

No monster, but this
smoothhound was
the target species





Born to be wild

With a bit of thought about carrying your gear, it's easy to combine a passion for motorbikes with angling



BEING A KEEN BIKER, I REALLY wanted to combine my passions for motorcycles and fishing, and kicked around an idea to travel light and fast to catch a fish. Little did I know it then, but it was to be the first of many such trips and spawned an easy way to carry my kit.

For my first session, I chose the 132-mile round trip from my home in Totton, Southampton, to Portland Bill in Dorset, which included a visit to Bowlease Cove, Weymouth, for a full English breakfast. My bike buddies John Cross and Chris Rose don't fish, so I allowed myself a fishing time limit of 30 minutes.

I filled my backpack with gear and bait and, using a couple of bungee cords, attached a three-piece Shakespeare rod to the frame. The ride was damp, but Weymouth Bay in the distance looked glorious in the sun. Breakfast was very welcome, but from our table we could see that Portland was shrouded in mist.

The idea was to fish to the west of Pulpit Rock, but when we got there the wind was in our faces and the surf spray was coming over the top of the cliff. To get out of the wind, we walked to the eastern side and found a guy fishing behind the first crane. He'd not been there long and had caught nothing, so we carried on a bit further to one of the outcrops.

Having tackled up, I dropped my rig down

the side of the rocks. Ten minutes later, and with no fish, I cast farther out to sea and risked losing gear in the kelp beds. Fifteen minutes were left on the clock and things were not looking good, but I tried to remain positive about catching a fish.

I thought I could feel something on the rod, but decided to see out my time rather than retrieving and casting again. As my 30 minutes were up, I started to retrieve, but the rig seemed to be snagged. I walked back with the rod pointing towards the sea, hoping for the rotten-bottom to break. It suddenly gave way, so I carried on winding and that's when I could feel something on the end.

It wasn't heavy, and soon my rig broke the surface, followed by a wrasse. Steadily, I lifted the fish up the rocks and soon a small ballan was safely to the top. Yes! Target achieved in 30 minutes.

TUBE TECHNIQUE

Having fitted rods on my bike using bungees or cable ties to hold them horizontally along the bike, it got me thinking about better ways to carry my gear, other than using telescopic rods. As a result, I came up with a homemade tube. Details of how to make it are shown on page 46.

I used it recently for a trip to Hythe beach at Southampton Water. On arrival, I put my trusty bike on the grass, with the side stand on a cover. As well as free parking, it cut ►

out the walk from the marina car park and crossing the lock gates with my gear.

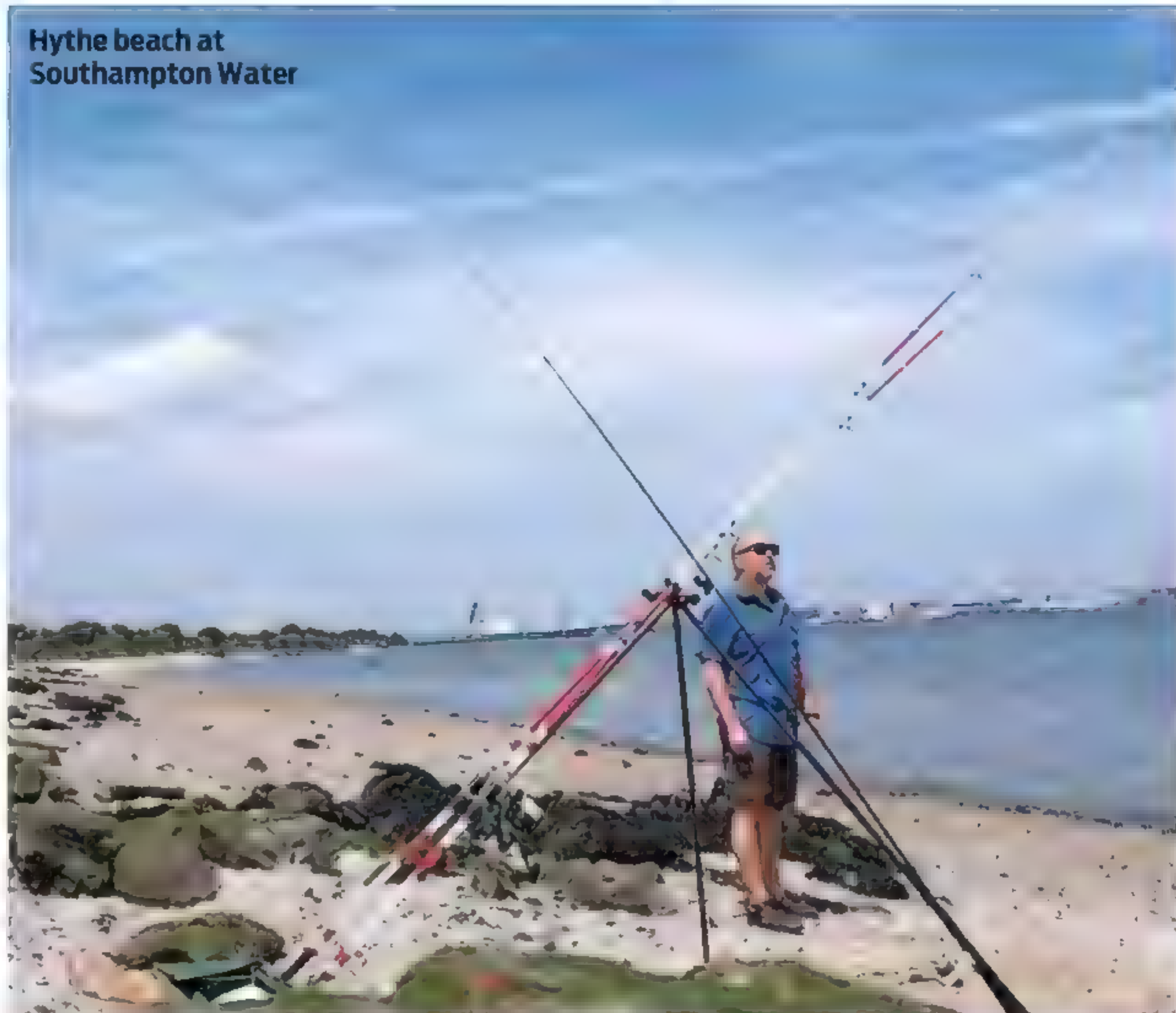
By walking alongside the boatyard fence, I was soon at my destination. I would fish for five hours to high tide, using two rods with crab baits. Having set the clutches on my reels, I grabbed my lure rod. Nothing much was happening, although, irritatingly, the lures were picking up small fragments of weed.

Eventually, I was down to the last half of a big peeler, so I sent that out to sea and then cast a side of mackerel on the other rod. It was getting near high tide, so I carried on lure fishing and was in the process of attaching a different spinner when I heard one of the reels clicking.

The rod was pulling down gently, so I ran back to the rod and picked it up, tightened the reel's drag, wound down a bit and waited.

There it was, I could feel a fish. I was ready for a tussle, but did not get one, just a steady weight until the smoothhound was in sight, and then it started moving back and forth in front of me. It was easy enough to beach and no monster, but was the target species and number 24 in my species hunt, which had stalled for nearly four weeks. My next target is a bigger hound, but mostly I want a mullet. ■

Hythe beach at Southampton Water



HOW TO MAKE THE ROD TUBE...

I use 110mm gutter pipe for the rod tube and cut a slot about 25mm deep in the tube bottom and wide enough so it fits over the foot peg.

Weight is probably not an issue when carrying rods, but for load bearing of the bottom of the storage tube, I use a rear foot peg on the bike, meaning there are no issues regarding strength. If it will support

a pillion, it will support your rods and rests. Passenger foot pegs may be higher if you have a sports bike, so you have to find what works for you.

Next, I cut a circle of plywood and fit that inside the tube just above the slot to make a base.

This base is secured with four screws from the outside. It also needs a hole for

drainage at the lowest point.

The tube fits over the foot peg for location and the tube then bears down on it with the bottom of the slot and the ply fitted inside the tube.

I cut a wooden block to fit between the tube and the heel guard of the footpeg, so it is a curve cut to suit the tube, with the back of the block angled to suit the heel plate. This is secured with some heavy-duty cable ties.

The white block seen in the pictures is a stop for my tripod, which stows outside the tube, not in it.

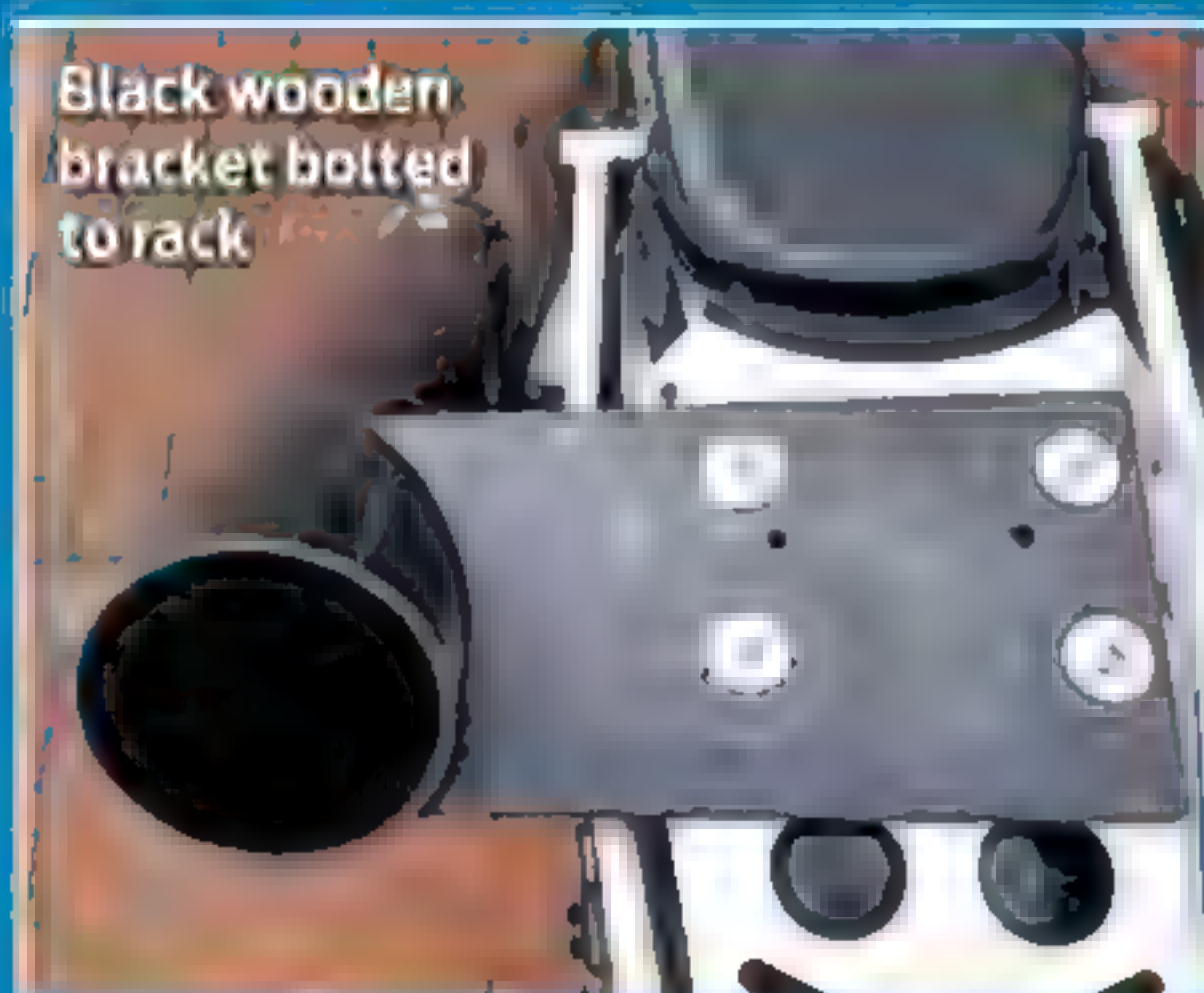
I have a rack on the bike, so I made up a plywood bracket that bolts to it and is cut to suit the profile of the tube. It is secured with cable ties to pull the tube into the bracket. To save the bodywork, I put a bit of foam between the paintwork and the tube.

I can get a pair of three-piece beachcasters in the tube, along with a lure rod and all with reels fitted, which saves space and weight in my backpack. The reel line must be secured with the line clip or an elastic band.

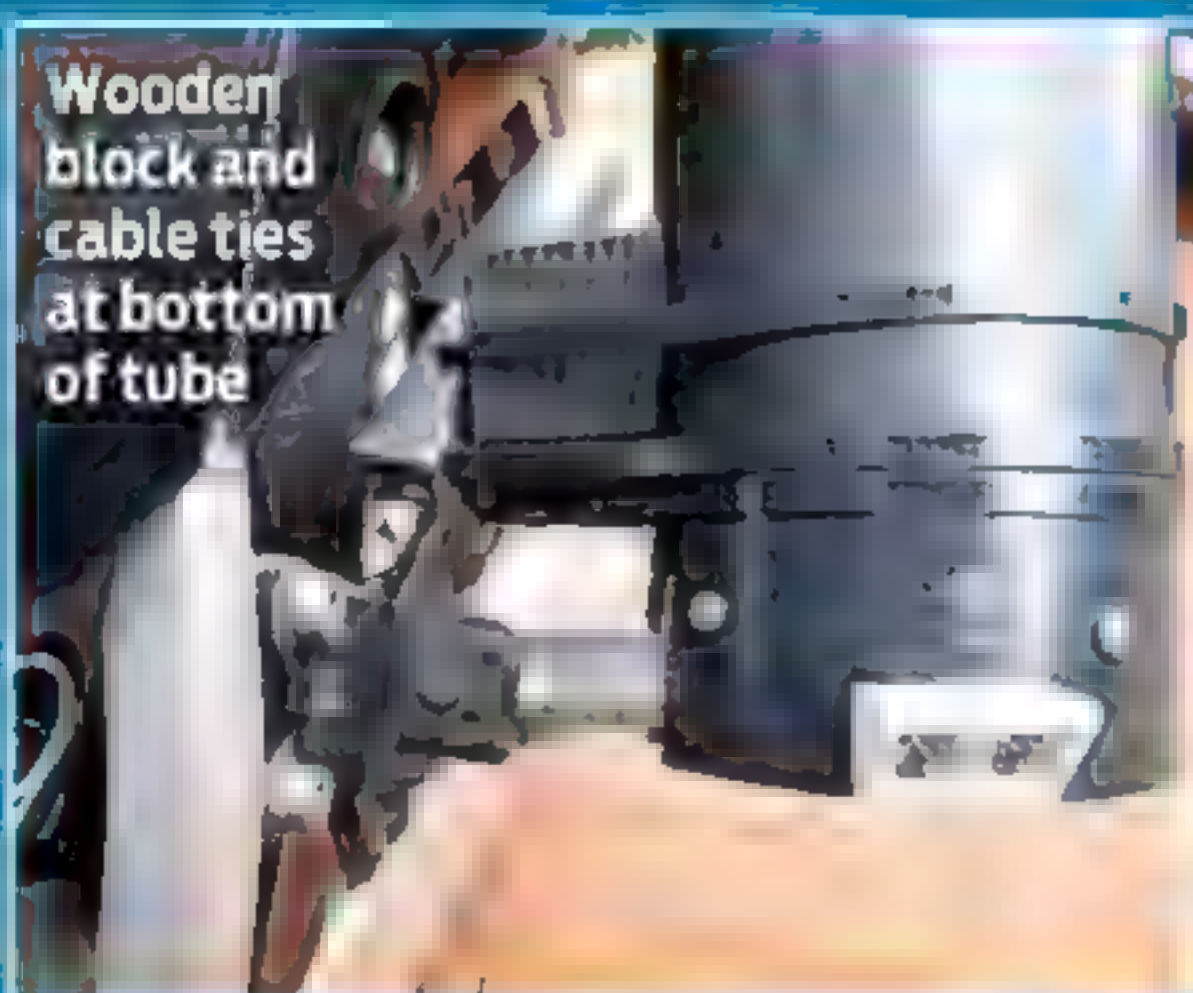
My tripod goes on the outside of the tube at the front and rests on the white block. You can bungee it in place, or for extra security, use re-usable cable ties.

Lastly, I put a bungee around the fitted rods and tripod and clip it to the rack or other side of the bike to add security and stop the rods jumping up and out. It works well and only takes a few minutes to load and unload.

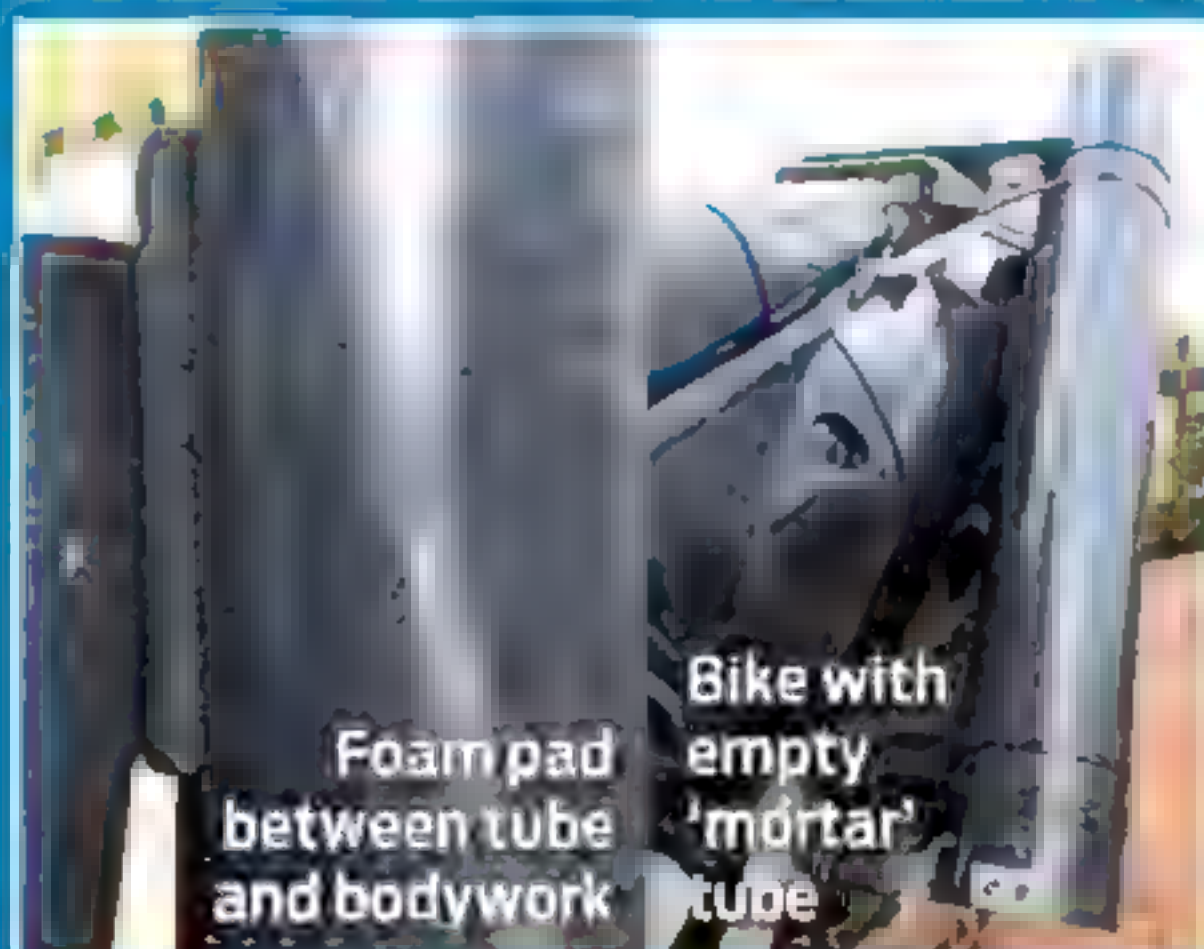
One more tip that works on my bikes is to have your backpack harness straps loose, so when you sit on the bike, it rests on the seat so you don't feel the weight.



Black wooden bracket bolted to rack



Wooden block and cable ties at bottom of tube



Foam pad between tube and bodywork
Bike with empty 'mortar' tube



Easy rider ready to go

OUT THERE

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BAIT WINNER



TOP TUNA: Roger Green, of Christchurch, Dorset, whispers his thanks to a 215lb tuna he caught five miles off the south-west coast of Mallorca. He was on Toni Riera's boat Mar. All the fish were tagged and released.



OVER THE RAINBOW: Having made a two-hook flapper rig the night before, 11-year-old Kian Nicholson, from Clitheroe, Lancs, fished at Morecambe with dad Phil. Kian caught a plaice on lug and squid.

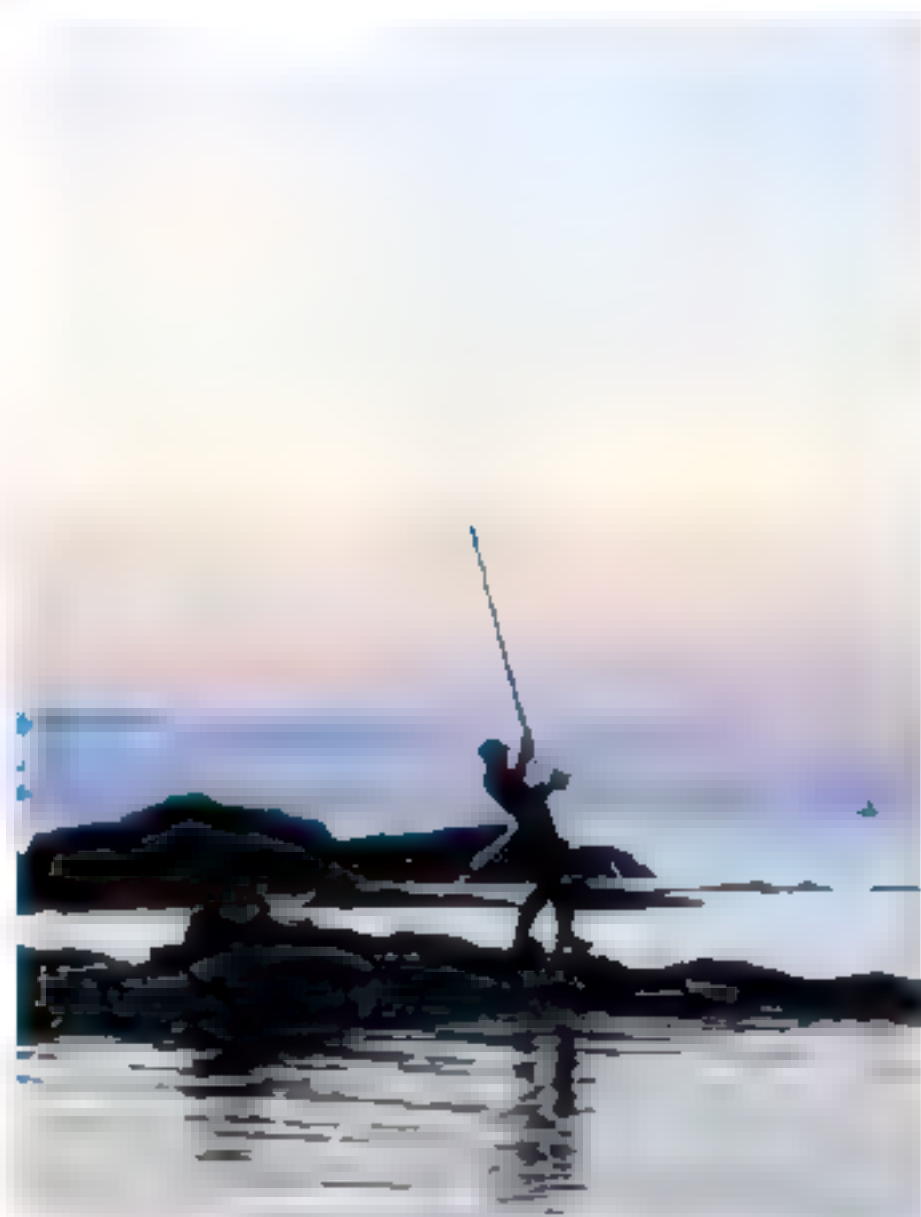


FAVOURITE FISH: Four-year-old Charlie Palmer, of Pembroke, wanted to catch dogfish when he visited nearby Dale, but now he likes rays after he landed a 6lb 2oz thornback. He also caught dogfish and pollack.

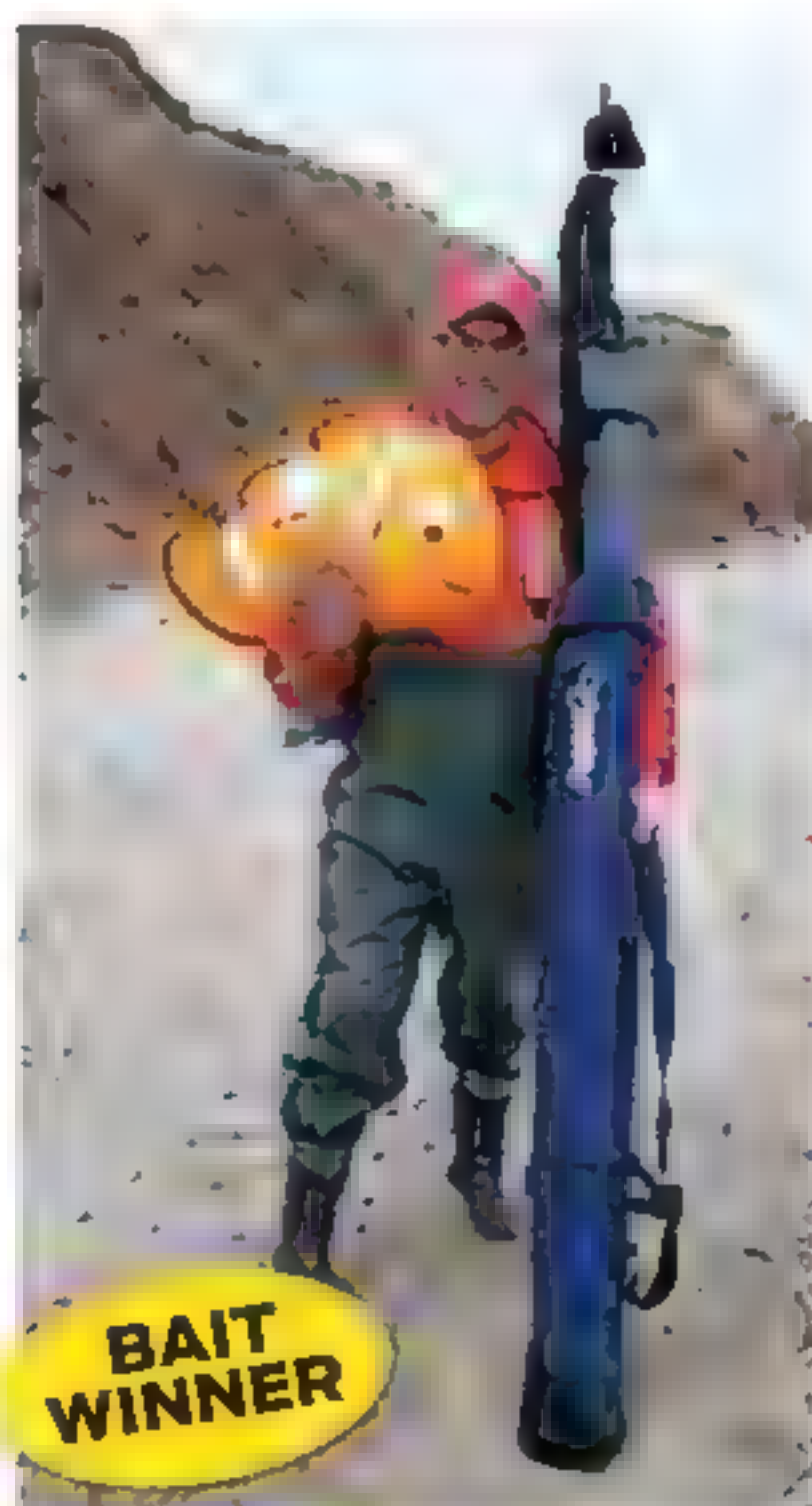


THAT'S A FISH: Either side of high water, Stewart Herd and his pals landed thornback rays of 7lb, 8lb and 8lb 8oz from a mark in south-west Scotland. Stewart caught his 7lb thornback on a mackerel with pilchard Solent Seagoo.

HERE WE GO: Brendan Evans, of Milford Haven, and his pals Rob Scale, Owen Devonald and Neil Gainfort setting off for a tope fishing trip out of New Quay. They had five runs and caught five fish weighing between 20lb to 55lb.



FISH ON: Barry McEwan strikes into a match-winning fish in round 4 of the Bass Rock Sea Angling Summer League. Fish proved elusive in the event fished from Belhaven to Whitesands. Barry's codling weighed 2lb 12oz and was caught in the last 30 minutes on a crab bait from the rocks close to the old harbour at Dunbar.



BAIT WINNER

NEMO FOUND: It's amazing what colourful fish you find on the Holderness Coast. Here's Glen Wilson, of Hedon, with an inflatable Nemo he found during a trip to Ringborough.

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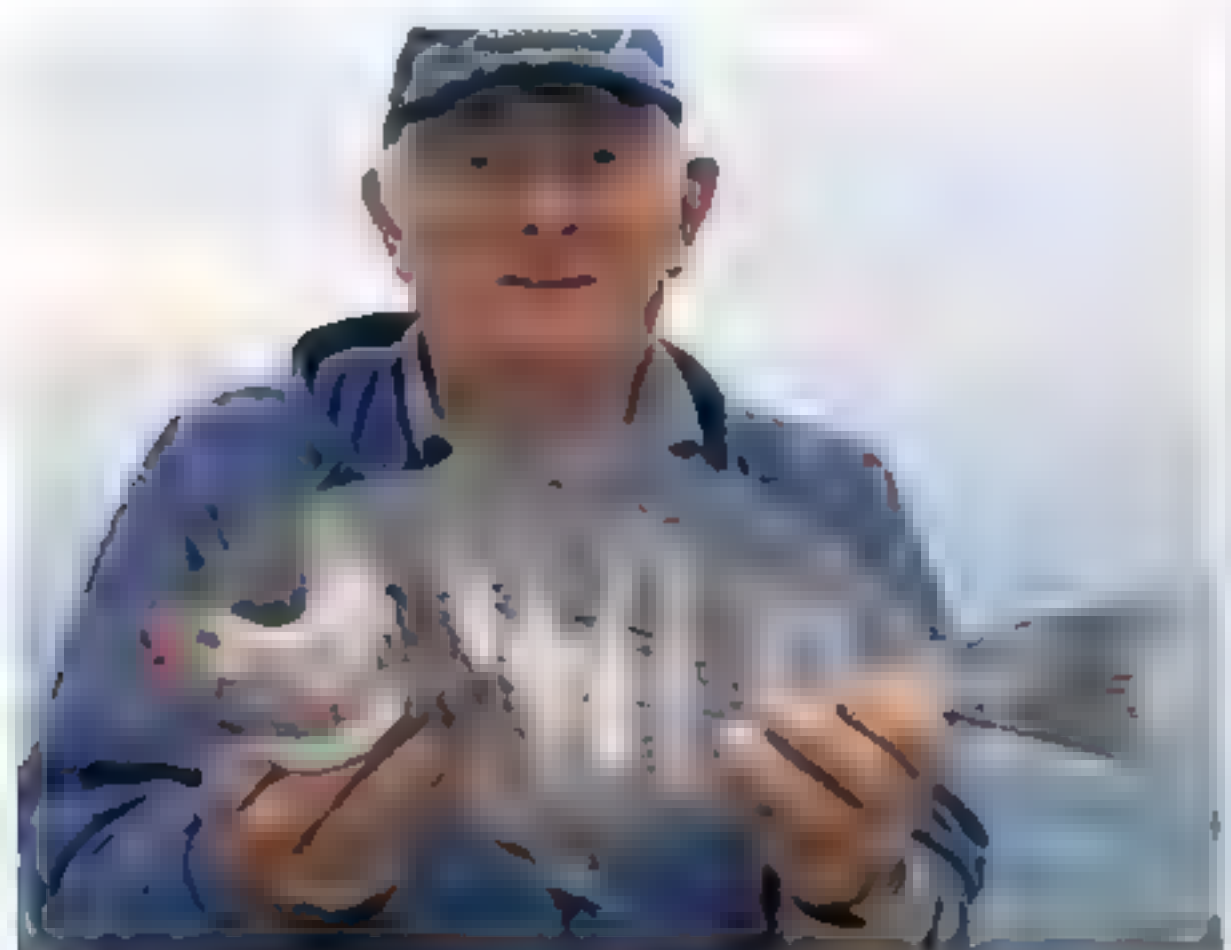


Catch a specimen fish to earn a badge and a chance of winning quality **Shimano** tackle

FANCY WINNING TACKLE FROM SHIMANO by catching a fish? Your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list.

If you do, you automatically win a Mission Accomplished badge, as well as being in with the chance of winning a great monthly tackle prize.

Each issue we award a superb Shimano reel to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit. There is no choice of prize, which is awarded at our discretion.



Mick Nunn, Thatcham, Berks.

Bait: Squid. **Fish:** 3lb 8oz black bream

Venue: Flamer IV, Weymouth. **Date:** June 25.



Tony Owen, Colwyn Bay, Conwy.

Fish: 38lb tope. **Bait:**

Half mackerel on a Pennell pulley rig. **Venue:** Pwllheli, Gwynedd. **Date:** June 1.



Neil Patey, Dartmouth, Devon.

Fish: 16lb 10oz pollack.

Bait: Homemade lure.

Venue: Private vessel, Dartmouth, Devon.

Date: May 18.

MONTHLY WINNERS

SHORE: Ed Spring.

75lb 4oz stingray.

BOAT: Neil Patey.

16lb 10oz pollack.



Sam Truan, Poole, Dorset.
Fish: 28lb 3oz blonde ray. **Bait:** Mackerel.
Venue: Purbecks, Dorset. **Date:** May 30.



Paul Musselwhite, Fordingbridge, Hants.
Fish: 13lb undulate ray. **Bait:** Squid.
Venue: Flamer IV (Colin Penny), Weymouth, Dorset. **Date:** June 14.

MISSION BADGE WINNERS

BASS SHORE

John Roberts, Barrow-in-Furness, 8-2
Wainey Island
Nigel Thomas, Clase, 9-0 River Neath

BREAM SHORE

David Langley, Christchurch, 1-8
Hurst Castle

BREAM BOAT

Mick Nunn, Thatcham, 1-8 Weymouth

CONGER SHORE

Cormac Burke, Killybegs, 20-2, Feelin

FLATFISH SHORE

Cormac Burke, Killybegs, 2-0 Mound
Rossnowlagh

FLATFISH BOAT

Jason Budge, Caution, 0-0 to rock
Aldemey

POLLACK BOAT

Nel Patey, Dartmouth, 16-10 Dartmouth

RAY SHORE

Suzanne Egerton, Ryde, 11-11 spotted
Hamstead beach

James Hughes, Haywards Heath, 1-0

undulate, East Preston

Paul Phillips, Teignmouth, 9-4

thornback, Chesil Beach

Bryan Smith, Hayes, 9-1 thornback

Pontshead

Ed Spring, Worthing, 15-4 stingray

Pagham

Jacob Stanford, Rhydyfelin, 15-3 blonde

Barry

Phil Thomas, Blandford, 14-8 undulate

Swanage Pier

Sam Truan, Poole, 28-3 blonde, Purbecks

RAY BOAT

Nel Blackford, Cowfold, 19-0 undulate

Littlehampton

Ray Gantrell, Portsmouth, 12-12 undulate

Portsmouth

Steve Hurry, Waterlooville, 14-3 undulate

Chichester

Clive Hurst, Fareham, 16-6 undulate

Portsmouth

Ian Lindsay, Effe, 15-0 undulate

Hayling Island

Paul Musselwhite, Fordingbridge, 13-0

undulate, Weymouth

Keith Robert Shaw, Portsmouth, 11-0

undulate, Weymouth

Trevor Sutch, Fareham, 14-8 undulate

Portsmouth

Keith Williams, Dorchester, 2-0 undulate

Weymouth

SHARK SHORE

Jonathan Chanton, Whitehaven, 9-3

smoothhound, Silloth

Rohit Kotel, Somering, 50-0 rope

Bracklesham

James Robert Crawford, Newtownabbey, 9-13

bull huss, Red Bay

Elliott Green, Cardiff, 11-13 smoothhound

Monk's Neryn

William Hooper, Gosport, 10-2

smoothhound, Gosport

David Ken, Ardne, 4-4 spurdog

Loch Ewe

David Langley, Christchurch, 11-0

smoothhound, Hurst Castle

Billy Musselwhite, 10-1 smoothhound

Hill Head

Tony Owen, Colwyn Bay, 38-0 rope

Pwllheli

David Porter, Cardiff, 14-8 bull huss

Cold Knap

Chris Rendle, Plymouth, 11-12

smoothhound, Devon

Gary Slater, Wallasey, 11-0

smoothhound, Rock Channel

Harley Thompson, Jarrold, 10-8

smoothhound, Heysham

Chris Vollet, Haywards Heath, 11-1

smoothhound, East Preston

SHARK BOAT

John Barron, Dyrhyn, 54-0 rope

Shell Island

Chris Fabian, Paisley, 11-0 spurdog

Pontpatrick

Ian Lindsay, Effe, 12-0 rope, Port William

Gary Lowe, Killinarden, 38-8 rope & 11-4

spurdog, Portrush

Tom Mason, Ringwood, 149-0 blue, Looe

Alex Thackaberry, Whitehaven, 17-0

rope, Maryport

Stewart Walker, Paisley, 15-2 spurdog

& 15-12 bull huss, Pontpatrick

John Watson, Ashington, 15-0 rope

Port Logan

WRASSE SHORE

Samantha Gillott, St Peter's Port, 11-8

rockcod, Herm

WRASSE BOAT

Cormac Burke, Killybegs, 1-2 rockcod

Wrasse, Donegal Bay



Ed Spring, Worthing, West Sussex.

Fish: 75lb 4oz stingray.

Bait: Ragworms on

a pulley rig.

Venue: Pagham, West

Sussex. **Date:** June 14.

Jacob Stanford,

Rhydyfelin,

Rhondda.

Fish: 15lb 5oz

blonde ray.

Bait: Mackerel.

Venue: Barry, Vale

of Glamorgan.

Date: June 7.



YOUR FISHING CATCHES



Garry Slater, Wallasey, Merseyside.
Fish: 11lb smoothhound.
Bait: Peeler crab on a pulley-dropper rig. **Venue:** Rock Channel, Merseyside.
Date: June 10.



Rob Corteil, Sompting, West Sussex.
Fish: 50lb tope. **Bait:** Whole Bluey on and up-and-over rig.
Venue: Bracklesham beach, West Sussex. **Date:** June 1.

ENTRY FORM

Badges are sent out after your name appears in the magazine.

Name

Age

Address

Postcode

Tel

Email

Type of fish

Caught at

Weight

Date caught

Bait/Rig

Caught from: shore ☐ boat ☐

Boat name

Skipper

Port

Witness & tel

My fish was returned ☐
 was not returned ☐

Post to: Shimano Mission,
 Sea Angler magazine, Media House,
 Lynchwood, Peterborough Business
 Park, Peterborough PE2 6EA

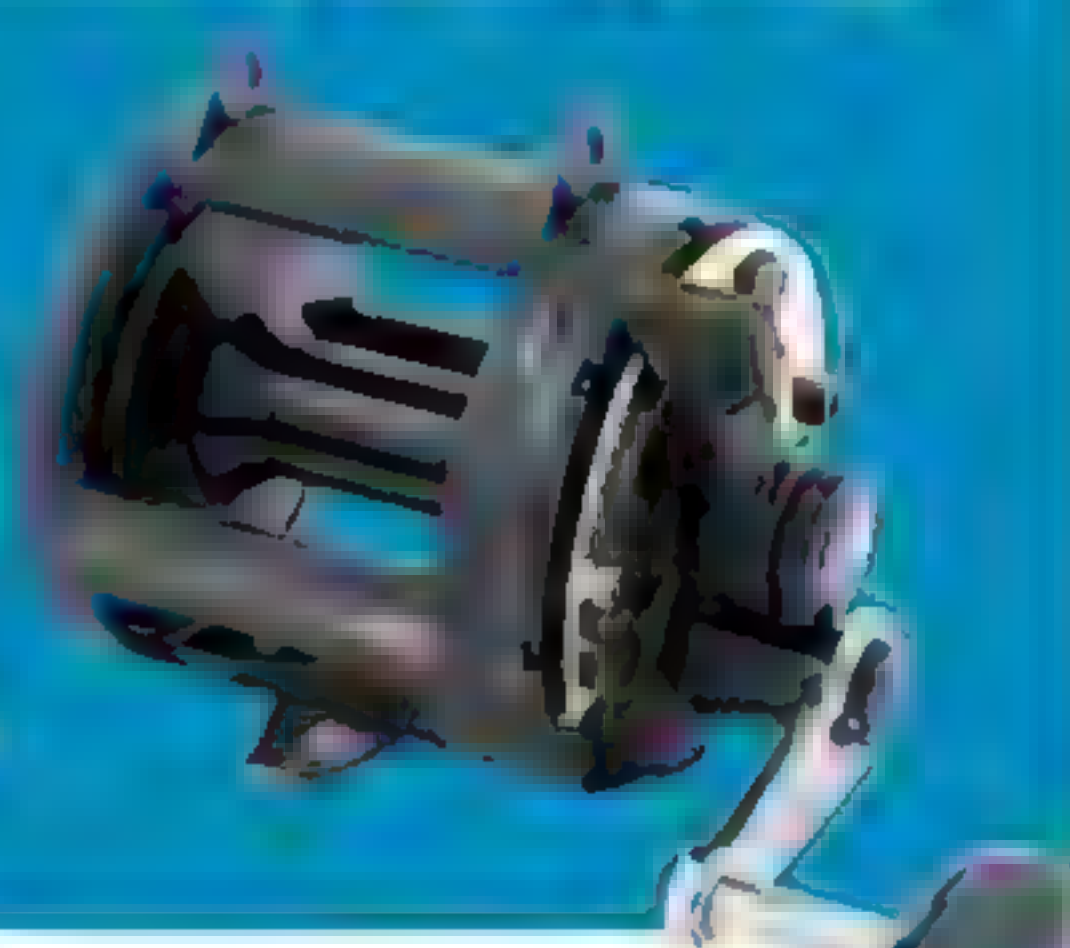
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 and boat-
 caught fish win
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 reserves the
 right to send an
 alternative prize
 of equal value.



YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish of this weight or above in your region to qualify for a badge. South is the area below a line drawn from the River Mersey to The Wash. North is the area above a line drawn from the River Mersey to The Wash.

NORTH

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	6lb	7lb
Black bream	1lb	2lb
Red bream	2lb	2lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb	1lb
Gilthead bream	2lb	2lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	2lb	4lb
Bull huss	7lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	15lb
Conger	19lb	30lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	18lb
Mullet	3lb	4lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	10lb
Common skate	60lb	140lb
Blonde ray	10lb	14lb
Thornback ray	8lb	13lb
Small-eyed/undulate	6lb	10lb
Ray (other)	3lb	4lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	8lb	9lb
Spurdog	6lb	10lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Turbot	4lb	12lb
Wrasse (ballan)	3lb	3lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	52lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	155lb

SOUTH

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	8lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	15lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	113lb

THE RULES...

- Only fish caught since the 2006 are eligible. We must see a picture of the fish. We may refuse an entry.
- You can claim one badge per species in an issue. A further badge cannot be awarded in future only if you set a new personal best.
- Enter by post, using the coupon, or by email (please include information requested on the postal form to: jo.pau@bauermedia.co.uk).
- Prizes are awarded by Shimano. Shimano reserves the right to send alternatives.
- No correspondence will be entered into.

BADGES

Shimano Mission badges are sent out after the catches have appeared in Sea Angler magazine

In association with

SHIMANO



Keith Williams, Dorchester, Dorset.
Fish: 12lb undulate ray. **Bait:** Squid.
Venue: Flamer IV (Colin Penny), Weymouth, Dorset. **Date:** June 2.



Suzanne Egerton, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
Fish: 4lb 4oz spotted ray. **Bait:** Bluey fillet on a pulley rig. **Venue:** Hamstead beach, Isle of Wight. **Date:** June 17.



John Watson, Ashington, Northumberland.
Fish: 45lb tope. **Bait:** Mackerel. **Venue:** Go West (Spike Millington), Port Logan, Dumfries & Galloway. **Date:** June 22.



James Hughes, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. **Fish:** 7lb 11oz undulate ray. **Bait:** Bluey and sandeel. **Venue:** East Preston, West Sussex. **Date:** June 17.



Steve Hurry, Waterlooville, Hants.
Fish: 14lb 3oz undulate ray. **Bait:** Squid and mackerel cocktail. **Venue:** Private vessel out of Chichester, West Sussex. **Date:** June 21.

MISSION RECORD HOLDERS

BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr John S Locker
■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz Wayne Milton
■ **BLACK BREAM**
■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr C Le Monnier
■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz Tony Heart
■ **COUCH'S BREAM**
■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr Lynton Carre
■ **Boat:** 6lb 9oz 7dr Ray Fallaize
■ **GILTHEAD BREAM**
■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz Scott Smy
■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz Roger Simcox
■ **PANDORA'S BREAM**
■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz Baz Wheeler
■ **RAY'S BREAM**
■ **Shore:** 6lb 1oz Jordan Colwell
■ **RED BREAM**
■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz Patrick Meegan
■ **BRILL**
■ **Shore:** 8lb 12oz Mark Griggs
■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz Tony Hayward
■ **TURBOT**
■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz Eddy Barham
■ **Boat:** 32lb 1oz Steve Scally
■ **BULL HUSS**
■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz M Urquhart
■ **Boat:** 23lb D Nicholson
■ **COD**
■ **Shore:** 32lb Adrian Lloyd
■ **Boat:** 43lb 9oz Chris Proctor
■ **CONGER EEL**
■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz Andy Eke
■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz Roger Beer
■ **DAB**
■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr Jason Tucker
■ **Boat:** 1lb 15oz Sean McCaffrey
■ **FLOUNDER**
■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr Paul Blehs
■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr Philip Dawson
■ **DOVER SOLE**
■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz Phil Troke
■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz M Le-Moignan
■ **HALIBUT**
■ **Boat:** 56lb 12oz Peter Strickson
■ **LEMON SOLE**
■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz G Newcombe
■ **MEGRIM**
■ **Boat:** 2lb 14oz Philip Lewis
■ **PLAICE**
■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz Martin Coates
■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr M Mowbray
■ **LING**
■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz Ross McKay
■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr G Laurenson
■ **GOLDEN GREY MULLET**
■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr D Woolcombe
■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz Stephan Martini
■ **MULLET**
■ **Shore:** 11lb 8oz Glenn Lane
■ **Boat:** 11lb Chris Harris
■ **POLLACK**
■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz Chris Griffin

Boat: 27lb 1oz Barry James

BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb Gary Tucker
■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz S Underwood

COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb Lew Marsden
■ **Boat:** 249lb Hans Dykman

CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz Kevin Hughes
■ **Boat:** 5lb 8oz J Longmore

EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb Ray Lewis

ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Boat:** 52lb Chris Wood

MARBLED ELECTRIC

■ **Shore:** 11lb 1oz 5dr Pierre Garrick
■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr David Bree

SMALL-EYED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz M Robertson
■ **Boat:** 21lb Dave Lynes

SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz Liam Warder
■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz Neil Buckett

STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 75lb 4oz Ed Spring
■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz John Styles

THORNBACK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr Mike Johnson
■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz Gary Mewdell

UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 1oz Steve Harder
■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz Scott Russell

ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb John Johnson

BLUE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 253lb James Fellows

MAKO SHARK

■ **Boat:** 194lb 4oz Andrew Griffith

PORBEAGLE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 484lb 8oz Chris Bett

THRESHER SHARK

■ **Boat:** 350lb Bob Smith

BLUE SKATE

■ **Boat:** 30lb Iwan Owen

SMOOTHOUND

■ **Shore:** 28lb 10oz Steve Cullen
■ **Boat:** 30lb Trevor Knight

SPURDOG

■ **Shore:** 18lb 14oz William Roche
■ **Boat:** 25lb 4oz Shane Salmon

TOPE

■ **Shore:** 66lb 10oz Michael Bell
■ **Boat:** 86lb David Cook

BALLAN WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 4oz Darren Swift
■ **Boat:** 9lb Glen Carter

CUCKOO WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 11lb 13oz Joe Edward
■ **Boat:** 21lb 4oz D Glendenning

WHITE SKATE

■ **Boat:** 160lb Pete Hammersley

* denotes catch and release



James Crawford, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim.
Fish: 9lb 13oz bull huss. **Bait:** Lug, squid and Bluey. **Venue:** Red Bay. **Date:** June 13.



Stewart Walker, Paisley, Renfrew.
Fish: 15lb 2oz spurdog. **Bait:** Mackerel. **Venue:** Lucky Dip 2, Portpatrick, Dumfries & Galloway. **Date:** June 16.



Ian Lindsay, Newport-on-Tay, Fife.
Fish: 42lb tope. **Bait:** Mackerel on a running leger rig. **Venue:** Private vessel out of Port William, Dumfries & Galloway. **Date:** June 8.



Bryan Smith, Hayes, Bristol.
Fish: 9lb 1oz thornback ray. **Bait:** Ragworms on a Pennell rig. **Venue:** Portishead, North Somerset. **Date:** June 21.



David Kerr, Airdrie, Lanarkshire.
Fish: 14lb 4oz spurdog. **Bait:** Mackerel on a Pennell-pulley rig. **Venue:** Loch Etive, Argyll. **Date:** June 30.



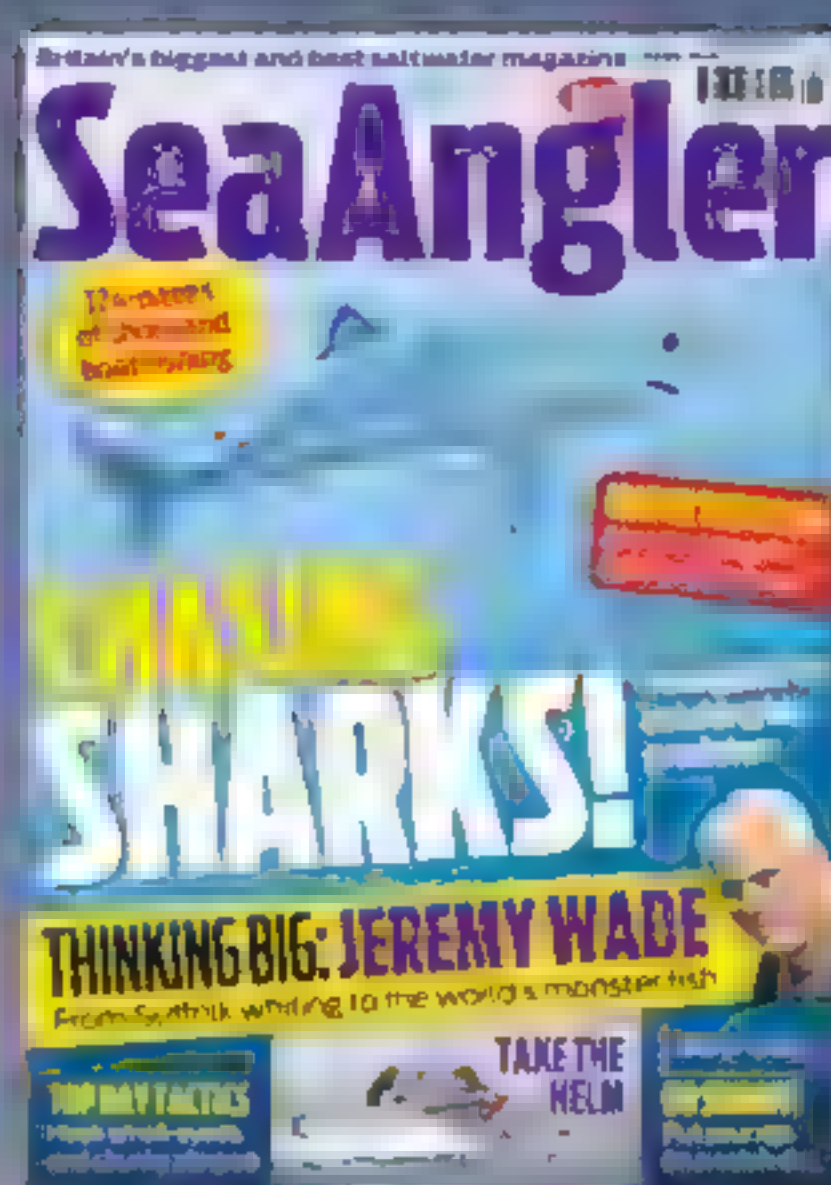
Elliott Green, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff.
Fish: 11lb 13oz smoothhound. **Bait:** Squid. **Venue:** Morfa Nefyn, Gwynedd. **Date:** June 9.



Cormac Burke, Killybegs, Co Donegal.
Fish: 2lb 1oz flounder. **Bait:** Lugworms tipped with mackerel. **Venue:** Rossnowlagh, Co Donegal, Ireland. **Date:** June 14.

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21 August 2019**

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YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its younger readers



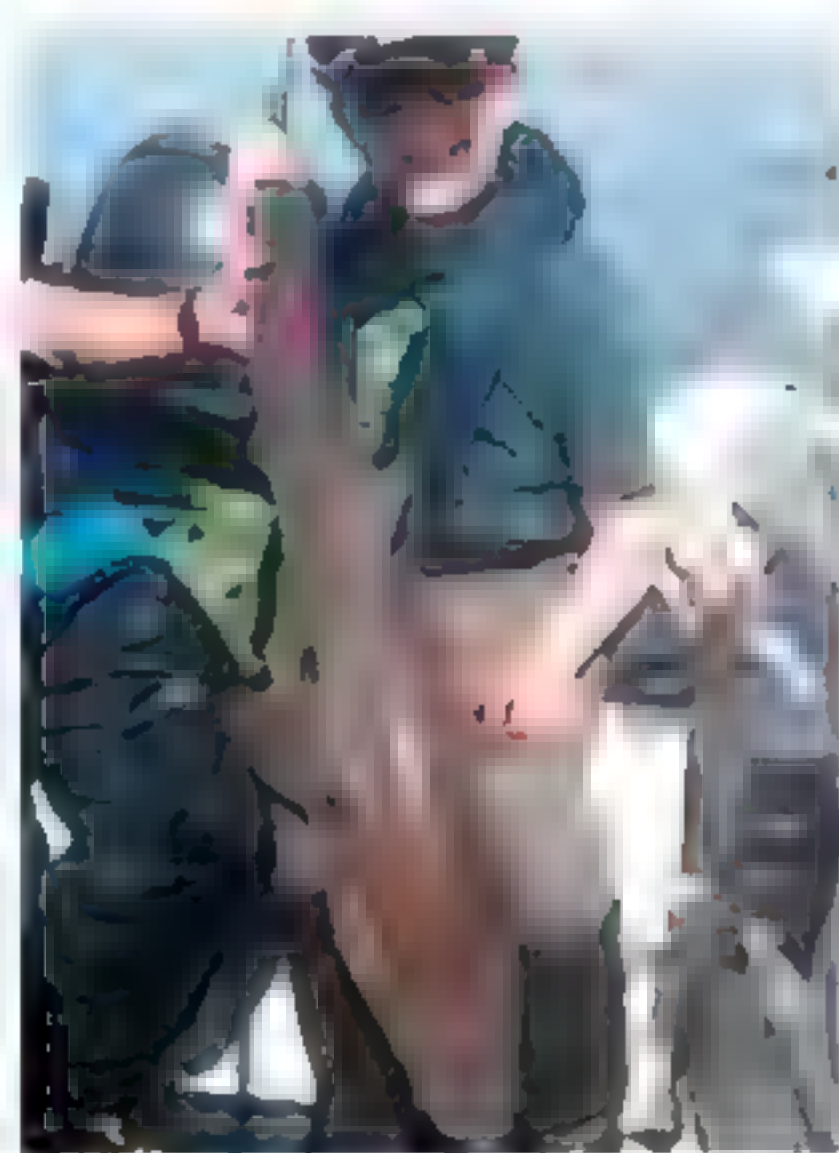
Ten-year-old **Finley Vickers**, of Swansea, fished his local breakwater and caught an 11lb 8oz smoothhound. The fish fell to a peeler crab bait presented on a pulley rig.



Matthew Wallhead, from Lincoln, recently fished at Immingham in the Humber estuary. Using lug and squid mounted to a Pennell rig, he caught this decent codling.



Adam Smith, age four, of Ashford, in Kent, fished at Hythe and caught this 5lb 12oz thornback ray. He used a Bluey wrap mounted to a pulley dropper rig.



Ethan Francis fished aboard a private vessel when he caught this tope weighing 34lb. The 11-year-old, from Port Talbot, presented a mackerel on a running leger rig a few miles out of Burry Port.



Luke Preston, aged 13, from Carnforth, Lancs, caught this tope when he fished from the beach at Heysham. It fell to a cocktail of peeler crab and squid and was quickly returned.



Samuel James shows off a fantastic smoothhound weighing 10lb 1oz. The 13-year-old, from Fareham, Hants, fished at Lee-on-Solent and used a peeler crab and ragworm bait on a pulley rig.



James Smith used a white maggot lure to catch this pollack weighing around 4lb. The nine-year-old, from Reading, Berks, was fishing aboard charter boat Lo Kie Adventures, skippered by Kieren Faisey, operating out of Penzance, in Cornwall.



Thirteen-year-old **Archie Brooke**, of Rotherham, caught a cod weighing 28lb while fishing on Kenny Graham's Oberon, out of Cullivoe, Shetland. He used a Savage Gear Cut Bait lure and also caught some good coalfish.

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First name: _____

Surname: _____

Age: _____

Daytime tel: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Type of fish: _____

Date caught: _____

Caught at: _____

Weight: _____

Bait: _____

Rig/tackle: _____

Shore ☐

Charter boat ☐

Private boat ☐

Boat name: _____

Skipper: _____

Port: _____

My fish was returned ☐

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Ellie Dallow, age 13 (left), with 32cm sole, and **Sophie Dallow**, aged 10, with a 28cm flounder, both caught at Weston-super-Mare beach, during the local junior open.



Callum Williams, from Anglesey, in North Wales, used a peeler crab to catch this bass. The nine-year-old had previously caught bass on lures but this was his first using bait.



Bootle, Merseyside angler **Hayden Salisbury** tempted this flounder with lug and mackerel baits on a two-hook flapper rig. It was the five-year-old's maiden shore session, with the flattie weighing in at 1lb.



Alex Canham, aged 13, caught this 11lb 8oz ling when he fished aboard Colin Penny's Flamer IV charter boat out of Weymouth, Dorset.

If your picture is published in Young Rods, you will receive a FREE pair of rod wraps. Don't forget to include your current address when submitting your entry.

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Review, Fly Life Magazine

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Paul Forreth See Angler review issue 546 Jan/Apr '19

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5ft 5in - 30-50lb - 2 Piece	5ft 5in	30-50lb	£399.99
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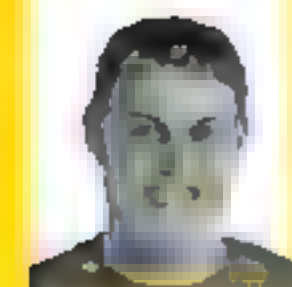
CABO SPINNING ROD 8ft 2 PIECE CANS TO 150g
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BOAT ANGLER

24 pages of advice, tips and tactics for fishing afloat





Words and
photography by
DAVE BARHAM

How to go blue

Late summer and autumn are the best times for targeting blue sharks, but how do you go about catching them?



Fish in the 80lb to 120lb range provide great sport

Great sport with 30lb-class tackle



1. THE RIGHT GEAR

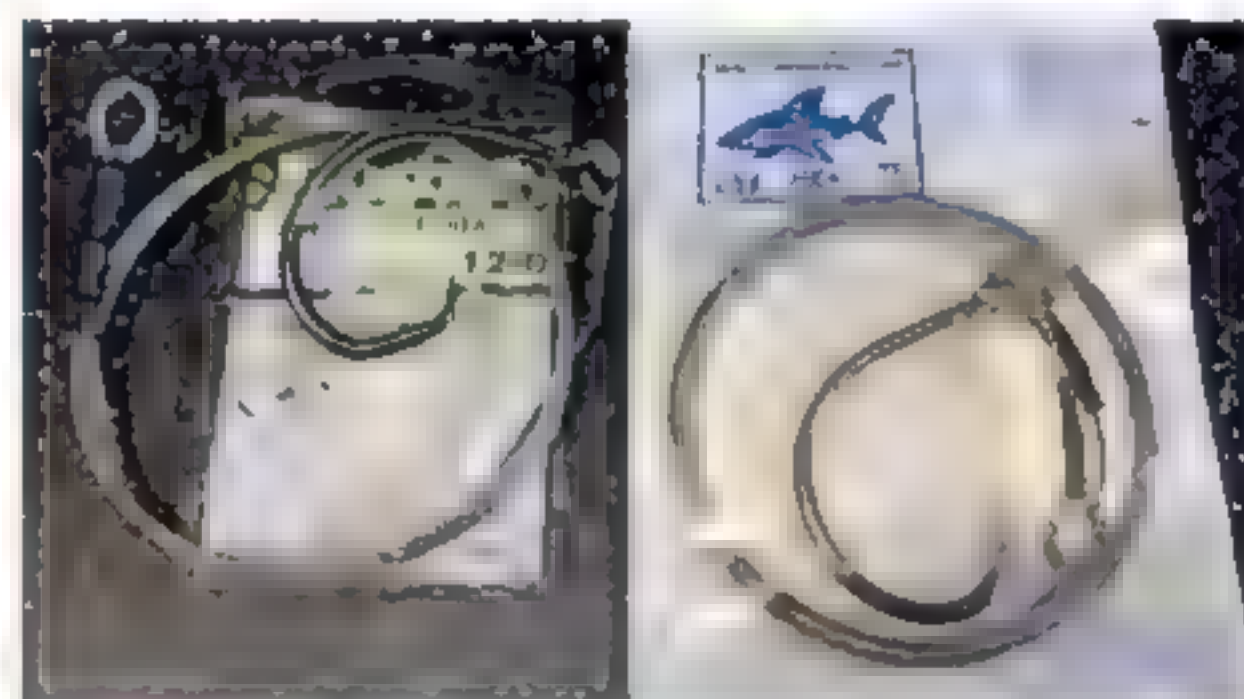
Most specialist charter boats are geared up for blue shark fishing, but if you're fishing from a small boat you'll want to get hold of a couple of decent 30lb-class rods and suitable reels loaded with 40lb braid.

From a charter boat you'll often be fishing a four or five-rod spread using 50lb-class gear, just in case you hook into a big porbeagle or thresher shark.

I prefer a heavy spinning rod and fixed-spool reel loaded with 40lb braid for blues, which rarely exceed 150lb. The fun you can have with lighter tackle is exceptional.

On the end of the 40lb reel line, a rubbing leader tied with 10ft of 300lb wire (or mono if you're not expecting to catch loads) with a 2oz or 3oz bullet lead on is attached via a swivel. The main trace is 5ft of 300lb wire with a size 10/0 circle hook on the end, which is connected with a heavy-duty snap link swivel.

The reason for all this heavy line/wire is because blue sharks have a habit of spinning up on the trace once hooked, especially if they dive deep. Using wire instead of mono as a rubbing leader makes it easier to untangle, and it also means you don't have to keep changing the rubbing leader section after just a couple of sharks.



There are a few custom shark rig builders in the UK that make rigs with circle hooks

2. SETTING THE LINES

When fishing from a larger charter boat your aim is to drift along with four or five baits in the water set at different depths and varying distances away from the boat. If you're fishing from a small boat you may only be using two or three rods, so omit the middle depths.

Usually, the furthest bait from the boat is drifted out around 60 metres using a float, and is set at around 10 metres deep. Then the second rod is set 50 metres from the boat at a depth of eight metres and so on, until the last rod is set just 10 metres from the boat set at a three or four metres.

3. SMELLY RUBBY-DUBBY

Rubby-dubby is usually a mixture of minced mackerel, pilchard oil and bran, although pretty much any smelly fish guts can be used as long as you add plenty of extra oil into the mix.

This is all put into an onion sack or drilled bucket and suspended over the side of the boat on a rope. The key is to hang the sack/bucket so that it is only just sitting in the water. The action of the boat rocking helps move it up and down, releasing the oily slick.

It's this slick that attracts the sharks to your baits, and because there is nothing in the slick for the sharks to eat they home in on your hookbaits quickly.

Prepare your rubby-dubby and mix it at home, then scoop it into old ice cream tubs and freeze it down. It saves a lot of mess on the boat, and the frozen blocks last far longer over the side than fresh dubby does.

Take your time and enjoy a fight



Rubby-dubby isn't supposed to be nice

4. FRESH OR FROZEN BAITS

The standard bait for blue shark fishing around the UK is a mackerel flapper. Basically, it's a mackerel with the backbone removed. However, large English squid baits also score well, as does any oily fish such as herring and Bluey. In some areas a whole whiting is the killer bait.



The classic mackerel flapper bait



A large, angry blue shark with half of the bait still in its mouth

5. HOLD ON TIGHT!

When you hook into a big blue shark the initial run can be immense. If using a circle hook, let the shark take the bait and run. Then simply point the rod at the water in the direction of the shark and quickly push the drag up tighter, so the speed and weight of the shark sets the hook for you - there's no need to strike.

Blue sharks can be extremely powerful and I've had blues take well over 100 yards of line from me on their first run, especially on the lighter tackle, but every shark is different. Some will move away from you, and then swim straight back at you. Others will go a short distance then dive deep, while some might stay on the surface. That's the joy of blue shark



BLUE SHARK FACTS

■ The blue shark is one of the most easily recognised sharks. It has a distinct colour - a deep indigo blue from above and a vibrant blue on its sides, changing to white underneath. The large pectoral fins are also easy to spot as they are as long as the distance between the tip of the snout to the last gill slit.

■ The blue shark is a long slender shark, reaching 3.8 metres (13ft) in length. It is likely the most prolific of the large shark species as it is abundant throughout its range. The blue shark has a weak keel on the caudal peduncle, and the upper lobe of the caudal fin is larger than the lower. The teeth on both the lower and upper jaw have triangular cusps with smooth or finely serrated edges.

■ The diet of this shark features many types of fish and squid, and may sometimes include seals. Although flatfishes make up part of the diet, blue sharks predominantly eat pelagic fish such as herring, cod, haddock, pollack, mackerel and whiting. Fish caught on longlines are often attacked and consumed by blue sharks, which in turn often become ensnared in the fishing gear.

■ The blue shark is a viviparous species, nourishing the young in the uterus and giving birth to live pups. The newborn pups measure 40cm to 51cm (16in to 20in) in length, and litters usually consist of between 25 to 50 individuals. Litters of up to 135 pups have been reported. Females reach sexual maturity at a size of 2.2 to 3.2 metres (7 to 11ft), while for males it is achieved at lengths of 1.8 to 2.8 metres (6 to 9ft). After copulation the females may retain and nourish the spermatozoa in the oviducal gland for months or even years while she awaits ovulation. Once the eggs have been fertilized there is a gestation period of between nine and 12 months.

fishing, you never know what to expect once you get hooked up.

The key to winning the fight is to take your time. Don't try to bully the fish from the word go. Let it run if it wants to run, then pile on the pressure if it goes deep. Keep your drag tight, but not so tight as the shark can't take line when it wants to. Most of all, enjoy it. Blue shark fishing is all about sport, nothing more nothing less.

If you can unhook the shark in the water or cut the hook away, then that's the best bet for the shark's survival. Unless you're on a dedicated charter boat, then it's not advisable to try and lift a blue shark into the boat - especially if there's only two of you on board.

6. SHARK MEASUREMENT-TO-WEIGHT FORMULA



You can get a good idea how heavy a shark is by measuring it and using the formula below to estimate its weight. The girth is taken as the deepest part of the body, usually just behind the pectoral fins, and the length is measured from the nose to the fork of the tail.

Here's how: 1 Measure the fish's girth in inches and square it. 2 Multiply result by the fish's length in inches. 3 Divide the final figure by 800 to give the approximate weight. For example - if the shark's girth is 35 inches and the shark's length is 80 inches - $35 \times 35 = 1225$, $1225 \times 80 = 98,000$, $98,000$ divided by $800 = 122.5\text{lb}$.



Top shelf tactic

Slow-pitch jigging is 'tackle porn' at its very best, and skipper Matt Forrester is leading the charge...



CALL ME A FAIR-WEATHER FISHERMAN if you like and I'll be the last person to disagree with you. I am more than happy to admit that given the choice I'll take a mirror-calm sea and bright sunshine for a day's charter fishing offshore over less favourable conditions every time, even if such conditions are often not ideal for actually catching fish.

And so it was early one glorious morning in May when I parked my car at Torquay Marina, hefted my camera bag over my shoulder, and went off in search of Silver Halo, the 7.9-metre Cheetah Marine catamaran which would be my office for the day.

Silver Halo is skippered by her owner Matt Forrester, who specialises in what he describes as 'quality fishing trips' catering for groups of up to six passengers, but often sailing with fewer.

As we headed out into the English Channel,

Above: The boat's expensive selection of rods and reels are beautifully crafted works of art

Left: Skipper Matt Forrester shows how it's done with a pollack

Matt told me that his crews mostly prefer to drift fish the wrecks using lures, especially the new-style slow-pitch jigs, which they fish in conjunction with the lightest tackle possible for maximum sport. For example, using jigs ranging from about 100g when fishing in shallow water, up to 250g for deeper water and in a stronger run of tide. Some of his regulars also fish lead headed soft plastics, like the Finnish Black Minnow, Crazy Sandeel and Namix Cobras from 60g to 200g.

I'd been invited to join a group of four regulars, each of whom, I was to learn, was a self-confessed slow-pitch jigging fanatic. I soon noticed that the boat's rod stowage racks were loaded with an impressive, glamorous and expensive selection of rods and reels, beautifully crafted works of art that could accurately be described as 'tackle porn'. Top shelf material, you might conclude. As we skimmed across a mirror-calm surface towards the first wreck, I watched with interest as the crew fiddled with



ABOVE: Ready to go fishing on Silver Halo

RIGHT: A selection of lures and jigs for the regulars

BELOW: Skipper Matt Forrester at the helm



their well-stocked tackle boxes, taking it in turn to compare and discuss the fish-catching virtues of a favourite jig.

For most lure anglers, summer wrecking off the south coast of England involves the pursuit of cod and bass, and these were the two species we would target. As Matt eased back the throttle and pointed out the distinctive hulk of the first wreck on the seabed complete with numerous targets indicating shoals of fish hovering above it, hopes were high that our extensive array of glitzy tackle would soon be put to good use.



Each jig has its own fish-catching virtues

THE BASICS

This is not intended to be a 'how to' article on slow-pitch jigging, but I feel there is a need to at least cover the basics of this technique. It involves working a lure slowly in order to induce a fish to strike, and each lure is specifically shaped so as to create a particular type of action as it flutters through the water column. It is recommended the lures are worked in conjunction with a specialist rod and reel, loaded with micro-thin braided line.



Specialist slow-pitch jigging rods possess what can best be described as a through action. At first glance when you watch an angler fighting a fish hooked on a SPJ outfit it might appear that the rod lacks backbone. However, this is far from the case. SPJ rods are deceptively powerful tools that are routinely used by anglers fishing all around the world to fight some of the hardest-fighting fish species. SPJ reels are generally small in comparison to traditional boat reels, but are incredibly strong. Crafted from high-grade materials, these mighty midgets are certainly large enough to hold more than sufficient braid to get the job done, and most are beautifully engineered works of art featuring a fast to ultra-fast rate of retrieve, along with silky-smooth clutch.

IRRESISTIBLE ACTION

As Silver Halo began her first drift of the morning, a series of colourful lures were dropped over the side and quickly disappeared in the clear water beneath her twin hulls. One by one each rod tip registered that a lure had reached the bottom, at which point the angler re-engaged the reel spool, and started to work it with what they hoped was an irresistible action.

Dave Taylor was the first to hook up. Rather



John Southall caught the biggest bass of around 8lb



Jim Baits with a fine pollack and a cod (inset)



NEED TO KNOW

■ If you are keen to try your hand at slow-pitch jigging, I cannot recommend Matt highly enough. He will happily give you a masterclass on this highly effective and increasingly popular technique.



In addition to fishing offshore, Silver Halo's shallow draft makes her especially suitable for fishing inshore, right up against the rocks, again using lures, and this is another of Matt's specialities.

■ For more information on fishing with Matt Forrester, aboard Silver Halo out of Torquay, South Devon, tel: 07970 176604. Web: www.silverhalocharters.co.uk Email: info@silverhalocharters.co.uk

than jigging, Dave had started off fishing a weighted soft plastic in conjunction with a spinning rod and small fixed-spool reel – a typical shore angler's bass outfit – that was now bent in confirmation of a decent fish. It turned out to be a decent pollack. The remaining three crew members, along with Matt, had started off jigging, and Jim Baits hooked into his first fish of the day, another very nice pollack. Moments later Matt boated its twin.

Throughout the next few hours we caught a steady succession of fish. Aside from one or two pouting, these were exclusively small to mid-range pollack, the stamp of fish that are so typical of pollack caught from wrecks during the summer. Keen to find our desired target species, Matt ran us to eight wrecks and, if my memory serves me correctly, it was the fifth that produced the first bass, a plump five-pounder that inhaled

Joe Southall's jig in mid-water. That same wreck also produced our first cod for Jim Baits who, like Joe, was using a Bumble Bee slow-pitch jig.

The weather really was perfect, with the temperature, along with the standard of fishing, increasing steadily after midday. This was at the start of the summer wreck cod and bass season. Early in the afternoon John caught our biggest bass of the day, a stunning fish that we estimated to weigh in the region of 8lb, which he released. Our best cod was a perfectly conditioned near double caught by Dave Taylor, again on a weighted soft plastic.

All too soon our day was done and we were steaming back towards Torquay, closely shadowed by a flock of gulls scavenging from scraps cut from those few fish we had harvested. It had been a lovely day afloat, and while not hectic fishing, we had caught fish at a steady

rate throughout the trip. Undoubtedly, had we experienced a bit more wind to speed up the drift, and perhaps a choppy sea to help enhance the action of our lures, we might have caught more. But, as I said at the very start of this article, given the choice, I'll take a flat calm every time. ■

A decent pollack for Dave





Caroline Haddrell
has a knack for
catching big flatties,
and Jeff is always
there with the net.

Thanks for the memories

A final voyage on board Duchess II out of Weymouth as skipper Jeff Clarke retires...



I'VE BEEN FISHING WITH CHARTER SKIPPER Jeff Clarke and his crewlady Caroline Haddrell for more years than I can remember, so you can imagine how my heart sank when he messaged me to say his boat Duchess II was 'almost sold' and that he was going to retire.

My trips always include an annual turbot pilgrimage to Weymouth every spring in my bid to catch that elusive 20-pounder.

I also used to pop down a couple more times each year in search of a few plaice and bream, and quite often again around September for another crack at the late turbot run.

One last trip was planned, for old times' sake, just to see if we could catch a few last turbot before Jeff wound it all up.

I've had some fantastic fishing over the years with Jeff. He's been skippering boats for decades and is a real character – proper Marmite, you either love him or hate him.

Me? I took an instant liking to the guy, especially after the late great Chris Caines (Tiger Lily) informed me that it was actually Jeff who helped him on his way to becoming a charter skipper and showed him the ropes when Jeff was working a boat out of West Bay.

One of my fondest memories of fishing on board Duchess II was a few years ago when we set off for our usual turbot hunt and ended up catching 21 turbot and brill in a matter of hours. Then, of course, there was the trip last year when we managed to catch two double-figure turbot in 10 minutes – a 15lb 4oz beauty for David Pettigrew, followed by a 16-pounder for Caroline. It's days like these that will remain etched into my memory. ▶

LAST TRIP

Our final trip together dawned foggy, like so many trips before it, but the sun soon burned it all off and it ended up being a lovely day. As usual, we only had frozen mackerel on board, but after a quick stop at one of Jeff's 'secret' locations we soon had a couple of dozen fresh launce in the coolbox. You can't beat fresh bait, and launce flappers or simple fillets have accounted for loads of decent turbot and brill off the Shambles for us over the years.

Today was to be no exception. We started slowly, but as the tide hit the magic 1.5 knots we began to catch the turbot. They weren't huge fish, maybe four or five pounds being the biggest, but we managed eight between us and I caught two keepers to bring home. We headed straight to the Sailor's Return for the usual couple of pints before going our separate ways. I was quite upset on the drive home, thinking about all the good trips we'd had over the years.

As I sit here reminiscing and writing this piece, I've just found out that Duchess II has been sold and is in her new home in Lymington. I just wanted to say 'thank you' once again to Jeff and Caroline for numerous happy memories over the years, and I look forward to fishing with you both again one day. I doubt he'll be able to stay off the water for long. There's life in the old sea dog yet.

TACKLING TURBOT

When fishing the Shambles Bank for big turbot, it's advisable to go with 12lb or 20lb-class gear with a small multiplier loaded with 20-30lb braid. The tide here can be fierce, and although I have fished there many times with just 40z, even less on occasions, you need a rod with some backbone if you're going to heave up that 20lb flattie. I've caught countless smaller turbot up to 6lb or 7lb on a spinning rod over the Shambles,

I had some last-trip success



but I wouldn't like to try my luck with a mid-double on that light gear. It's doable, but would be touch and go all the way.

For the most part you'll be using watch leads around the 40z to 120z range, depending on the size of the tide and strength of wind that's affecting the speed of the drift on the day, which is another good reason to use sturdy gear. There's no need for any fancy rigs either. All I use is a simple running leger tied using 3ft of 30lb fluorocarbon with a size 4/0 or 5/0 wide-gape hook on the end. I prefer the Sakuma Manta or Varivas Bigmouth.

The secret to catching turbot on the drift is knowing what a bite feels like, and this will only come after time. You'll often be drifting quite quickly over rippled sandbanks, and after a few fishless hours you'll start to imagine that every bump on your rod tip is a bite. There's no mistaking a turbot bite, though. Unlike plaice, which are also usually caught on the drift, a turbot will grab your bait and engulf it in one swoop. You'll either feel a few rattles on your rod tip, followed by it dipping as the weight of the fish pulls it over, or you'll have the rod almost wrenched from your hands.

That said, I have caught a few smaller turbot before by feeling the initial 'rattle' of the bite, then nothing for a few minutes, and then back to the rattling bite again. I actually sent down a WaterWolf camera with a baited rig attached to it once and was amazed to see a turbot eat my bait, then happily swim along with us on the drift, sometimes alongside the camera, sometimes just behind it, for quite a few seconds before I realised that the fish was actually hooked. Perhaps they're not as stupid as we think they are!

ESSENTIAL CHOICE

If you want to catch turbot consistently, then the secret is to use the correct amount of lead weight. Use too little and you'll have to keep letting out line to ensure your bait is still bouncing along the seabed, which makes bite detection much harder and also gives a big fish more time to shed the hook if you do manage to hook one 200 yards away from the boat.

The trick is to use enough lead to keep everything tight on the bottom, but not too

We had some good times on board Duchess II



Keep turbot baits long and thin – it's worth noting how most of the flesh has been removed from this mackerel strip



This is as simple as fishing gets

much weight that your rod tip keeps hooping over every three or four seconds before the lead finally pulls up and drops back down again. Ideally, you want a lead weight that will hold the bait on the bottom but will still move along with the boat as you drift. Again, experience will tell you what you need to know. Just make sure you carry a wide range of weights and change them as the tide increases or decreases in strength.

Once you've lowered your bait to the bottom, let off a little line to get it away from the boat, and then use your thumb as a brake on the line, but don't put the reel back into gear. You'll need to be able to react quickly and let out some line the instant you feel the rattle of a bite. Doing this for a count of five gives the turbot enough time to swallow the whole bait as well as your hook.

Most big turbot will inhale a bait in a matter of nanoseconds, but the smaller fish will often just grab half the bait, which is why it's important to give as little resistance as possible and let the fish take it properly. As soon as you count to five, put the reel back into gear and begin winding – there's no need to strike, the speed and weight of the drifting boat will set the hook for you. ■

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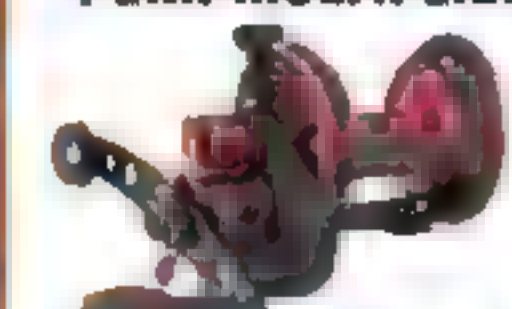
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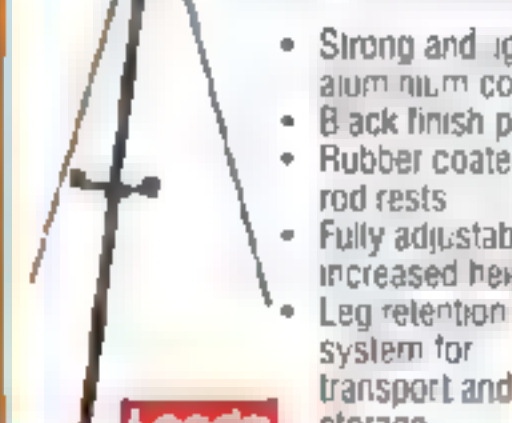
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Murphy's law shark style

Fish with lots of sharp teeth always provide an element of danger, and if things can go wrong, they will...

SOMEONE ONCE WROTE DOWN A list of laws to cover many of the simple disasters that befell him. What we know is very little apart from his name, Murphy, but this list of laws are the stuff of legend.

One of Murphy's more well-known laws states "Whatever can go wrong will go wrong" and this is not what you want to dwell on when out on a shark fishing trip, but at least if you know it might, you can be somewhat prepared...or can you?

Looking back 12 years, I recall a small-boat trip with the Sea Angler magazine team in County Cork, Ireland, where fate (Murphy's Law) would strike not once, but four times.

I hate fishing to a plan because inevitably some element of the plan will change, so it is important to have a back-up to ensure

you can get some kind of reward for your efforts. It is important to plan a strategy to target what species you want to catch, but always remember that 'Murphy' can and will intervene at some stage.

It was on a bright July morning when we embarked on a quest to catch blue sharks off the Irish port of Cobh.

We were staying at the Bella Vista Hotel, owned and managed by Kevin Murphy; was this an omen we failed to notice?

The team was Pat Carlin and myself with Pat Cunningham on his Orkney called Sonic Blue, while thresher shark record holder Steve Mills and charter skipper Roger Bayzand were on Steve's Orkney named Samaki. Many of you will remember Roger, who used to run his charter boat out of Lymington, but now lives in Australia. ▶





Flashback: Pat Cunningham looks on as Pat Carlin tackles a shark...



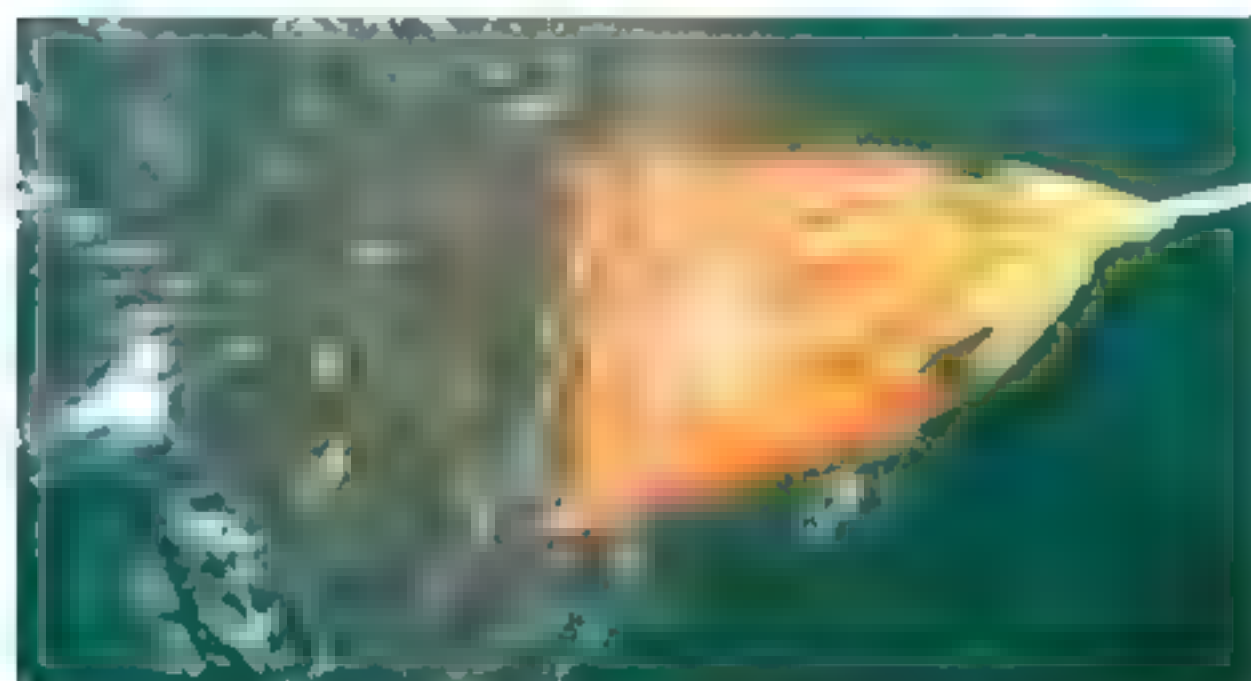
...which was quickly brought to the boat...



STEADY DRIFT

When it comes to shark fishing, we couldn't have asked for more experienced anglers than Steve and Roger, so after a brief meeting that morning it was decided to head to the 300ft line about 15 miles offshore and drift over some sandbanks and reefs that exist along this stretch of coastline.

A brief journey from the quays in Cobh to the mouth of Cork Harbour allowed us to fill the fish boxes with fresh mackerel, which would be the essential ingredient for the rubby-dubby,



a bran groundbait mix enriched with the oily, blood and fish juices that would be used to attract the sharks.

Steve and Roger examined the charts of the area to determine the point at which we would start the drift. It was also important to take into account the strength and direction of the wind, and similarly the strength and direction of the tide before setting up the trail. Having done this, we all headed for a point on the charts where we would get a steady drift for five hours, enough time to draw any shark in the vicinity to the rubby-dubby trail.

Sonic Blue arrived at the start point of the drift

at 11.30am, and Pat dropped the groundbait bag over the side of the boat, having first attached it to a stern cleat. It was decided to drift parallel and close to each other in order to maximise the effect of the rubby-dubby.

Three 50lb-class rods were prepared in quick time, and over the side went the 200lb breaking strain wire traces that were attached to size 12/0 bronzed O'Shaughnessy hooks. These would combat the teeth of the shark, and 15ft of 80lb mono would join the wire to the mainline.

The reason for the 80lb mono is to combat the rasping effect of a shark's body rolling on the trace. Bait was a whole mackerel, head hooked and slashed on the sides to release the juices into the trail of chum, which by now could be seen as an oily slick developing downstream from the boat.

These baits were suspended at depths of 25ft, 40ft and 60ft by different coloured balloons. The balloons were also at separate distances from the boat – 30yd, 50yd and 70yd, the deepest one being the furthest to avoid tangles and to cover more ground in the chum trail.

NUMEROUS GARFISH

It was one of those lazy summer days, the sun was bright and we amused ourselves by catching numerous garfish to 2lb and whiting on baited rigs on the bottom.

Occasionally, we added freshly cut mackerel chunks to the trail; these would sink through the trail and enhance its attractiveness.

The first couple of hours passed without any sign of a shark, and heads began to nod. At some stage between 2pm and 3pm a seagull took a fancy to my balloon. I saw the balloon burst and

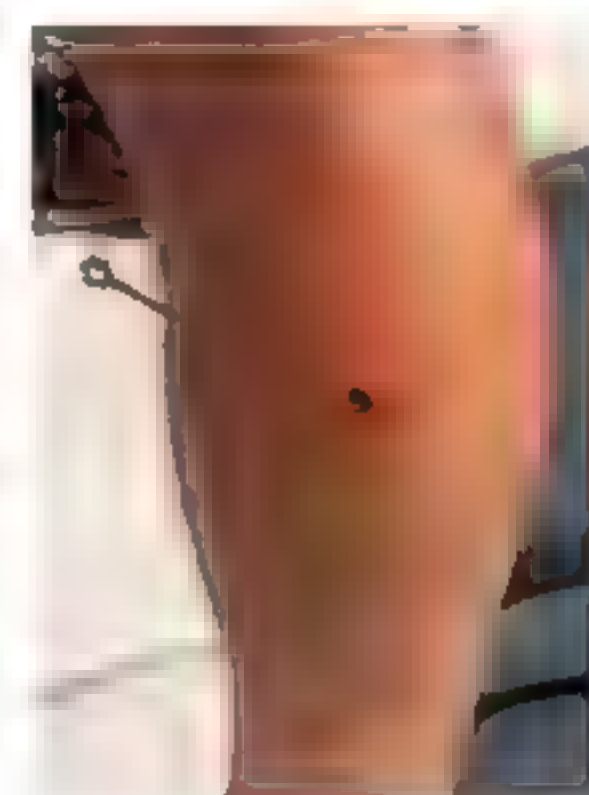
cursed the bird, but then the ratchet on my reel began to click, slowly at first before picking up in speed as line began to pour off.

Suddenly life returned to Sonic Blue and the crew moved with renewed purpose and enthusiasm. As I picked up my rod, Pat Cunningham's reel also started to click as line began to leave the spool. We thought it was a double hook-up, but soon found out the one shark was attached to both rods.

Pat's line was moving faster than mine and when the run stopped, he struck into what was obviously a good-sized fish. Pat Carlin had to bring in his line to avoid tangles, while let out or retrieved line as Pat fought the shark. Enter Murphys Law for the first time.

Pat's shark fought well in the beginning, but arrived to the side of the boat within 10 minutes, which was surprising considering it was 80lb-plus. Unfortunately, my trace was wound around Pat's mono leader and it came on board in a mess. I put down the rod and grabbed the trace in my attempt to untangle it. This was the time disaster struck because the shark came to life again and swam off.

Pat grabbed my mono leader with one hand and fought the shark with the rod in his other hand. Luckily, in one respect, my mono leader parted as the braid cut through it, but it was unlucky for Pat because the second run had imbedded my size 12/0 hook into the calf of his leg (right).



...and over the side
on to the deck...



...ready for a catch
photograph



Pat struggled on through the pain and a few minutes later landed the blue, which was quickly unhooked and released at the side of the boat. We now had a decision to make, remove the hook there and then or head for home and have a doctor remove it in the hospital.

Pat decided to try to remove it on the boat before the wound began to swell, so out came the first aid kit and without describing the surgery, which was gruesome, he saved the Irish health board the pain of prolonged exposure to his pink crocs.

STUPIDITY

It was time for Murphy's Law to play a part for the second time. Pat Carlin was getting ready to fish again, but had a birdsnest on his multiplier and had stripped line from the reel on to the deck of the boat in an effort to solve the problem.

In the interim, I had baited his hook and dropped it over the side while he began to load his reel again with the loose line. The bait had sunk no more than 10ft when it began to pull through my fingers. Not realising what was happening, I didn't let go of the line immediately and received a deep cut for my stupidity. It could have been much worse if the braid had looped around a finger.

A blue had taken the bait as it sank near the rubby-dubby bag and took off with speed, as they always do on their first run.

I released the line and waited until the run stopped. Pat struck and his rod doubled as the shark felt the hook sink home. He played the shark for 15 minutes and landed a fish of about 60lb without further incident. We

put a shark tag in its dorsal fin and moved quickly to get the fish back into the water.

Murphy's Law would now strike for a third time. As the two Pats got the shark on the starboard side of the boat, I moved into a position to take some photographs from near the water level as it was released.

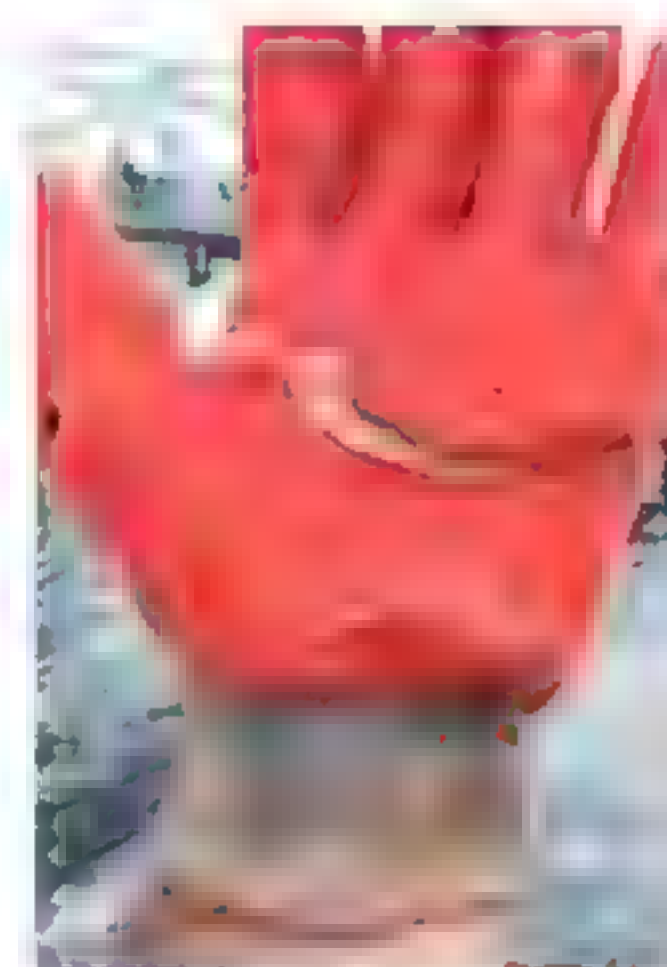
Three anglers on the same side of the boat caused it to list to starboard and I ended up balancing on the gunnel, no feet on the deck and head almost in the water. Luckily, Pat Carlin grabbed my jacket and pulled me back as he released the shark's tail.

In the meantime we had received a call on the VHF to say that Roger was into a good blue on Samaki a couple of hundred yards away from us. As it was time to pack up, we headed towards them and started taking pictures of the fight.

We came alongside as Steve went to land the fish and Murphy's Law struck for a fourth time.

I've written about what happened next before, but just to remind you, Steve ended up with his hand in the shark's mouth and was lucky to end up with all digits. His glove was shredded and resulted in 40 stitches and a long recuperation.

The moral of the tale is always have Murphy's Law in your mind, and have a plan of action in place in case he decides to pay you a visit. ■



Thresher shark record holder
Steve Mills with a blue



Skinny rigs

Put your traces on a diet

THE MOST CHALLENGING WEATHER conditions for boat anglers are the longer periods of high-pressure systems when the sea goes flat, gin clear, and the fish just go off the feed, even out in deeper water.

These highs put more pressure on the water, which, in turn, makes fish with swim bladders far less inclined to feed.

These prolonged high-pressure patterns can occur both in summer and winter. Most of us time our fishing around days off work. Inevitably, some of these will coincide with these flat conditions when fish can be almost impossible to tempt on conventional rigs and tackle.

Like many other long-in-the-tooth freelance and competition anglers, instead of throwing in the towel, I've developed some special low-viz rigs that I turn to in times of need when nothing else seems to be working.

JIGGED UP

The first thing we need to realise is that the fish are feeding very selectively and can almost pick and choose what they take. The type of bait, how it's presented and behaves in the water are vital, so too is visual awareness in clear seas. If the fish sees foreign objects near a bait it might otherwise eat, it will often decline the offer. That's the basis of these rigs, minimal components, ultra-fine lines and smaller hooks that put us in with a chance of fooling a few fish or two when standard rigs and tactics are failing.

You can tie these rigs by hand easily enough, but I prefer a proper rig jig. Cheap enough to buy, but they take a lot of the hard work out of rig building. More importantly, they keep things neat and, above all, your rigs consistent in length and component positioning. I use a Gemini Rig Jig I've had for years, but a popular alternative is the Stonfo version.

The Gemini Rig Jig is mounted on a length of 2in x 2in wood strip, one jig bolted permanently in place at one end, the other movable via drilled holes in the wood, with nuts and bolts to produce rigs of any normal length.

Having a solid unit to work from is much easier when you're threading on the components, and especially when gluing miniature bits in position. You'll also find

it easier if you place the rig jig on a black background as this highlights the line and components better. Hardware shops sell cutting boards with raised edges, and these, in black, are brilliant as if you drop a swivel, hook or bead, it goes no further than the tray edge. It's an important point if you're working on the kitchen table and have the family to think about.

RIG COMPONENTS

To maximise the efficiency of these rigs, you'll need to comb the market and pull in bits and pieces from different sources to achieve what we need. What we're looking to do is to utilise the smallest components we can to firstly reduce visual impact, but also to reduce weight for better presentation of what are sometimes tiny baits.

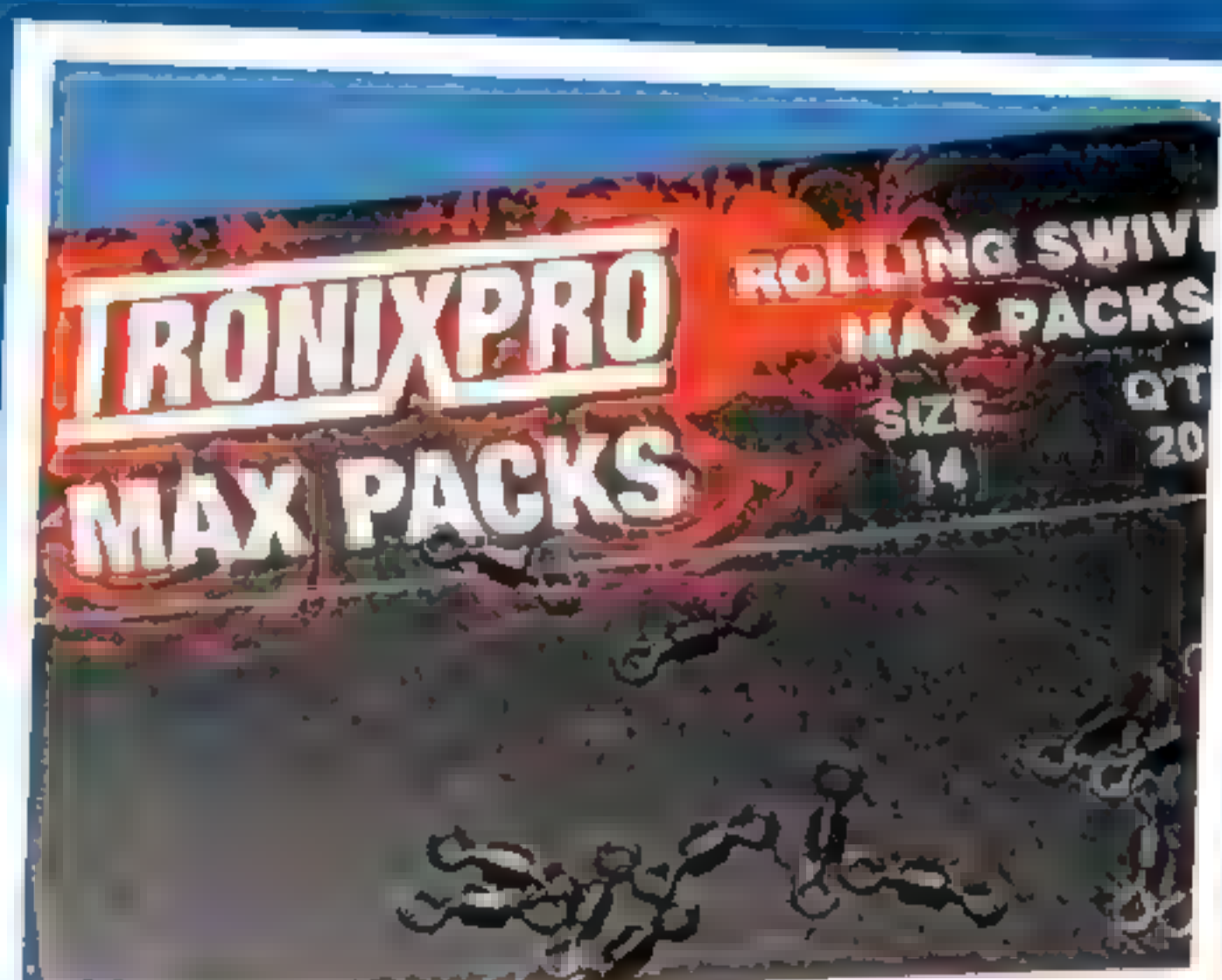
Many specifically designed sea components are far too big and made in reflective stainless steel that stands out like a sore thumb. You'll need to look at the carp and coarse fishing market to get some of what we need.

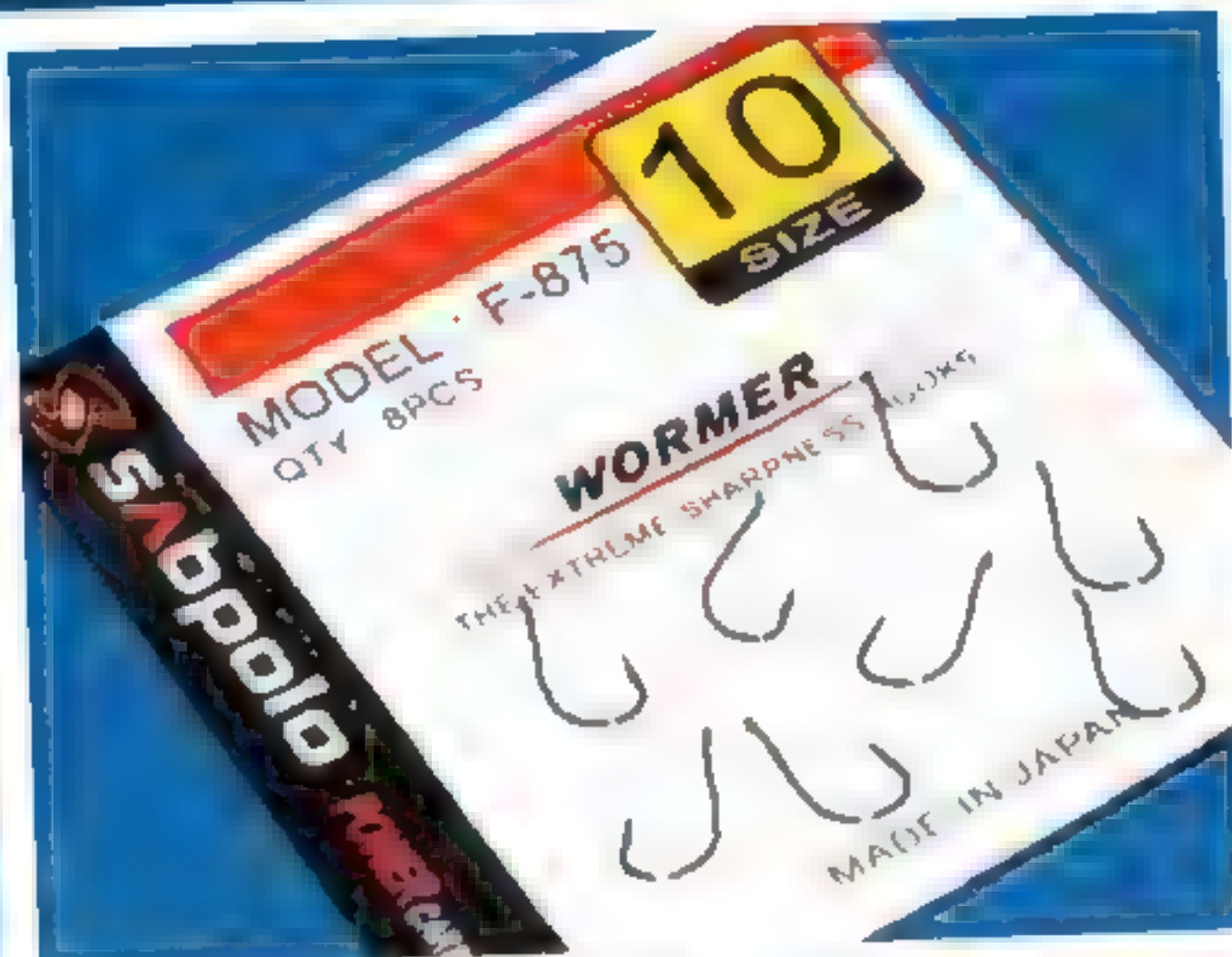
For example, I use carp tackle company Korda's Stik Klip lead links for lead weight attachment. You're not likely to be fishing heavy leads in these conditions, usually only 2-3oz, at most 5oz, so a lighter smaller lead link is adequate. Handily, it comes in a reflective matt black finish to reduce close up visual impact as a fish homes in on the bait.

The same applies to swivels. Rig connector swivels need not be big. I use Berkley McMahon type in size 10 (actually about a normal size 6) with a convenient matt black non-reflective finish, but go down to a true size 8.

for lighter rig bodies. Hooklength swivels also need to be a minimal size, and can be size 10 down to as small as size 14. Look for a reflective, or reduced reflective finish, but make sure any swivel is a good-quality brand and a rolling pattern swivel, not a cheap and inefficient standard box swivel.

Beads need to be from a clear material and as small as you can get. The ones I use are from Tronixpro and a tiny 2mm in diameter. These are tough and with a middle hole diameter big enough to work on lines from 20-40lb or so. You can also glue the clear two-way beads directly to the line if you want a totally fixed hooklength, but I prefer the swivel head





A 10lb pollack caught on a low-vis rig



combination as it gives more movement. Tronixpro also markets ready-cut clear rig tubing that is quoted to fit lines between 40-70lb, which it is, but it will also work on lines down to 20lb or so for the very light rigs designed for scratching out smaller species if glued properly.

HOOK CHOICE

There are plenty of hook patterns you can play about with, but two have always fished consistently for me and I wouldn't want to be without either.

My go-to hook is the Drennan Super Specialist. It is designed to handle double-figure carp and, with the right tackle, will handle double-figure sea fish too, when needed. Slightly wide in the gape, it features a micro barb, is forged for strength, has an ultra-sharp point but is relatively light in weight.

I carry sizes 8 to 16, with 10 and 12 being my regular choice for general fishing, but often use the 16 when targeting smaller wrasse and the like. I favour this hook for worm and fish strip baits.

Another good lightweight pattern is the Tronixpro Sabpolo Wormer hook in sizes 6, 8 and 10. A strong, thin wire pattern with a slightly wide gape, it also features an upturned eye that can aid the hook turning in the mouth of the fish as the hooklength tightens.

You can increase the hooking potential quite a lot if you use a carp angler's no-knot whip over the shank of the hook; it stops the hook moving around inside the knot loop. This is the hook for fishing bulkier baits such as crabs, mussels, small chunks of shellfish such as razorfish, cockles or prawns.

LINE CHOICE

For rig bodies, where I can, I prefer to use fluorocarbon, simply because it's less easy for the fish to see. However, the rig tube is glued in place on the rig bodies and superglue sticks better to standard mono than it will the hard, shiny surface of fluorocarbon.

If you're building rigs to target bigger fish, such as ballan wrasse, pollack, larger gurnards, codling, coalfish, haddock and whiting, generally fish up to 5lb or so, then choose a semi-supple clear mono of no more than 40lb breaking strain.

For smaller scratch species, such as pout, poor cod, smaller wrasse such as goldsinnyes, small ballans, cuckoo wrasse, dabs and

the like when conditions are really tough, then I also carry some rigs made with 20-30lb fluorocarbon for the rig bodies.

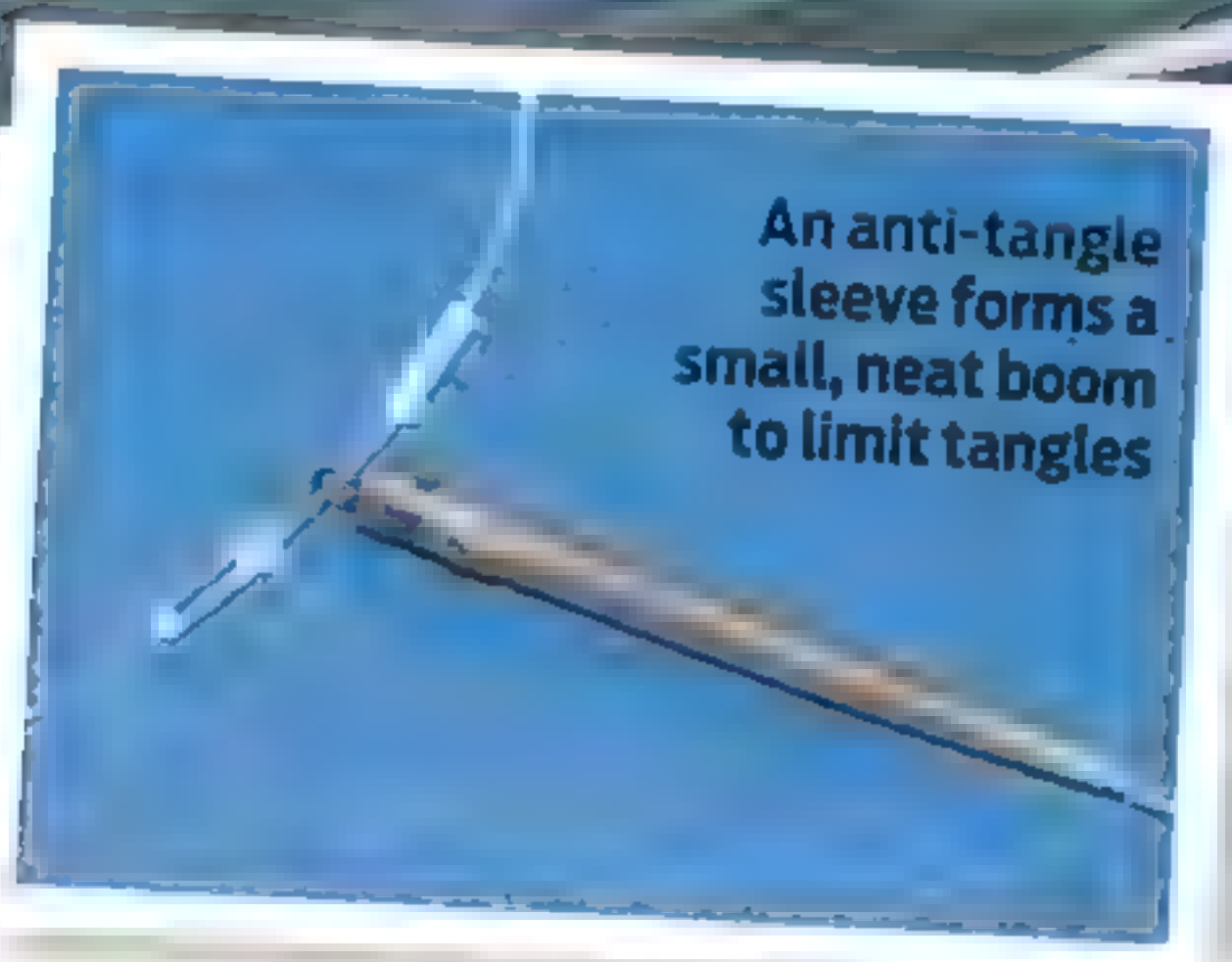
The superglued rig tube will stick well enough on the fluorocarbon for these smaller fish, but if you feel you need more strength, then use two sections of the rig tube either side of the beads and swivel to give it greater strength. My attitude is that if a bigger fish breaks the tubing superglue seal, then I scrap the rig for the day and replace it. It's done its job!

For the vitally important hooklengths, I use fluorocarbon every time. Obviously, less easy to see, so a no-brainer, but equally important is that it is more durable when in contact with rocks and the seabed, and less easy for fish with small teeth to chew through. Its other attribute is that for the same diameter it's a little stiffer in nature than mono, so in the lighter breaking strains is less prone to inadvertently tangling.

Breaking strain choice can be crucial. I have rigs made with 6lb hooklengths when targeting scratching species, but would normally be looking to fish 10-12lb hooklengths for the bigger species to 5lb. However, a 10lb fluorocarbon hooklength will land double-figure rock pollack or cod quite easily if your rod, reel and clutch are balanced to it, when fishing small slivers of mackerel.

Berkley Trilene has just a hint more suppleness than some other fluorocarbons and is my first choice when fishing really light because it's a proven line I use when fly-fishing for trout. In deep water, where bigger fish are much more likely, I'll step up to 15lb line, but rarely heavier. ▶





An anti-tangle sleeve forms a small, neat boom to limit tangles

ASSEMBLY

Assembly is the same whether you make a one-down/two-up, one-down/one-up, or a simple two-hook or three-hook paternoster.

To get my rigs fairly uniform in length, I first tie on the Korda Stik Klip. I cut off the rig body, typically 36 inches for a one-down/one-up rig or a two-hook paternoster, but 46 inches for a one-down/two-up rig and a three-hook paternoster, but up to 60 inches if I'm building a three-hook rig incorporating a single higher and longer hooklength designed to take pollack on the drift over rock as well as targeting bottom feeders at the same time with the two lower hooks.

With the rig body cut to length, say for a two-hook paternoster, now slide on a length of rig tube, 2mm clear bead, size 14 rig swivel, another bead and another length of rig tube. Repeat this component sequence for the second hook.

Leaving these loose, I now tie on the rig connector swivel, usually a size 8 for 20lb line, or a size 6 for 40lb line. If you use a four or five-turn grinner knot keeping the knot loop about the same size each time, you'll keep your rigs a pretty even length without fuss.

With the rigs stretched full length and taut

in the jig, position the tubing, beads and swivel exactly as you want them to be on the body line. Now, looking directly at the rig, slide the left-side tubing its full length to the left and do the same with the right-side.

Using a small sharp point, such as a fly-tier's dubbing needle or a cocktail stick, get a drop of glue on the point and put the glue exactly where the tubing was prior to being slid to the side. Now quickly slide the tubing over the glued area its full length so that the glue sits inside the tubing. Capillary action actually draws the glue in anyway. Use just enough glue to fully fill the tubing. Do not over-glue because this can creep and spoil the action of the beads and swivels. Leave it to set fully while you repeat with the next rig assembly. I leave a little room between the tubing for the beads and swivel to spin freely.

Not all superglues seem the same quality, and the two I find the best are the Tronixpro Rig Glue or Loctite 406. Both grip mono and fluorocarbon better than most other makes. I also find that keeping superglue in the fridge helps it last longer and work better.

Hooklengths are a matter of preference, but I find when bottom-dwelling fish are lethargic it's best to keep the hooklengths no longer than 15 inches. Sometimes shorter 10-inch traces mean the fish do not need to chase the bait as much, and it keeps the bait tighter to the seabed where they expect to find food.

A rough rule of thumb is, on faster drifts lengthen them, and on slower drifts shorten them. The exception is when I tie a higher flyer for the pollack. I make this up to 50 inches in length so that it is well away from the rig connector swivel, and has the freedom to really flutter and move as it drifts along. This

simple flyer baited with a thin sliver of mackerel only really targets pollack, sometimes coalies and codling if they are up in the water, but it's really efficient.

Another little edge gleaned from carp anglers is to use the thin rubber anti-tangle sleeves. Fox produces a grey/green sleeve that looks like a bit of weed passing by, or try the Avid XL anti-tangle sleeve, which is basically clear with a little dark fleck in it to break up the outline. These will neatly slide on to fairly small swivels and form a small, neat boom that help limit tangles when fishing very light hooklengths, if you think you need them.

TACKLE

It's important to fish these rigs with balanced tackle. My favourite set-up is either a 9ft or 11ft Shakespeare Tipster, which, with the very supple tip, protects light hook-holds and light hooklengths, but also gives me brilliant bite detection.

I fish the nine-footer with a 4000-sized fixed spool carrying 20lb braid, and the 11-footer with a 5000-sized reel, again with 20lb braid. I still fish a shockleader to protect my main braid from the seabed, normally fluorocarbon of 15-20lb wound on the reel about eight times and up the rod and leaving a 2ft drop below the rod tip before tying on the rig.

If you haven't got a Tipster, use a soft-tipped 12lb-class boat rod about 8ft in length, alternatively a lighter tipped 9-10ft spinning rod. Even if you choose to cast a little way off to cover more ground, the boat rod will manage fine with a 4000-sized fixed-spool reel, so no need to worry too much if it's all you've got.

I like a quick-change connector tied directly

Smoothhounds
often take tiny baits



to my leader so I can replace rigs rapidly. I find the standard sea clips far too big and obvious. I change these for a Berkley Easy Clip in size 10. They're small, neat, and with a proper rotary action when under tension, which limits the chance of lighter lines twisting. They're a matt black finish, too.

For bait, we're talking thin strips of mackerel and squid about a 5mm wide and no more than 4-5cm long. Half cockle baits, small chunks of razorfish, fingernail-sized squares of mackerel, short sections of worm, tiny chunks of crab or sections of crab legs – literally titbits, not full meals. Never overfill the hook and always keep the hook point well clear of the bait.

The design of the rig differs little from normal, but the smaller components reducing the visual impact of what the fish sees, along with the greater movement of the bait, allowing it to act more naturally, is what really makes these rigs score when nothing else does.

If you haven't gone down the skinny rig route before, you're missing a trick. ■

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skinny rigs



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Short-haul sessions

If time is at a premium, boat trips of up to five hours can still provide plenty of action



Harry Brake casting
(above) and waiting
for a bite



LEFT: Use
squid head
for hound
and ray

RIGHT: A 10lb
thornback for
Simon Lynch

IF YOU REALLY FANCY A CRACK AT SEA angling for the first time but are daunted by the prospect of having to steam many miles out to sea, then read on, because there are alternatives.

By virtue of the game, we inevitably have to board a boat and travel some distance to our chosen mark, but that mark does not have to be a faraway place over the horizon.

Of course, there are many different types of angling trip, and some of those, such as wreck and shark fishing, can mean that a long-distance steam is unavoidable. Sometimes sea conditions can also prevent your deep-sea trip, and problems such as sea sickness can spoil your day. The very thought of seasickness can be enough to put anyone off this sort of adventure.

There is an alternative. Depending on where you choose to fish from, there can be fantastic fishing opportunities to be had right under your nose. My home harbour of Minehead in the Bristol Channel is one such place.

Yes, we do have excellent offshore sport, which involves long steaming, but we also have some great fishing so close to home that sometimes we can arrive at our mark before the anglers have a chance to get their gear assembled.

These are the sort of marks that do not get fished very often because some anglers think they have not been 'proper' deep sea fishing if they stop within minutes of leaving the harbour.

With no commercial activity and very little attention from anglers, some of these inshore havens can produce some great fun. Just because you can probably cast to some of them from the beach doesn't mean they are not worth a try.

QUICK START

I recently entertained the staff from a tackle business in Bristol, who always insist on including a couple of 'shorties' as we call them, a trip of only five hours duration at the most. Total steaming time from the harbour was eight minutes! Our chosen targets were members of the shark family – smoothhounds and rays. What a bonus having them available so close to home.

The crew, all from Veals Mail Order, came prepared with all the gear and a selection of

baits, with giant prawns, peeler crabs, squid, mackerel and sandeels. Uptide rods were launched, and also a couple of downtide rigs just to cover all possibilities.

Before the kettle had a chance to whistle, the light fixed-spool reel belonging to Danny Arnold sang out as a smoothhound swam off with his whole peeler crab bait. At around 10lb, the fish was soon photographed and released back to the sea.

Next in line were Simon Lynch and Jeremy Salisbury, who simultaneously landed similar fish. With a steady stream of hounds coming to all rods and a variety of baits, we decided to make a short move to seek some rays.

After a further five minutes I anchored at a patch of mixed ground where virtually anything can be caught. Coral, sand and shell make up the seabed, meaning it is an ideal holding ground for all sorts of crustaceans and small fish – just the sort of area that our various rays love to hunt.

At around 70ft deep, it was still possible to fish uptide gear because the tide was small and it was fast approaching high water. Again, within minutes of his bait hitting the seabed, Simon was called to attention as an obviously hefty fish took a liking to his king prawn bait. The first ray,

a small-eyed of about 12lb, was soon in the net.

As the tide dies away, the fishing can sometimes slow down, but not this time because the fish continued to oblige. Harry Brake was trying to take some video footage, but was constantly interrupted by rays and hounds. As the tide began to ebb, another flurry of rays showed, with the best, a blonde of 17lb, falling to Simon, who added a finely marked thornback of 10lb.

Soon it was time to go home. If we left it too late, we would miss the tide into the harbour and would be stuck out for a further eight hours. Just because this type of fishing is close to home does not mean that it is a waste of time, far from it.



Danny Arnold
bagged a super
smoothhound



Simon with his
17lb blonde ray

NEED TO KNOW

■ To book a charter trip with
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High rise boat storage

Ease of access to the sea, affordable fees and security are among the advantages of dry stacking



THERE ARE QUITE A NUMBER OF OWNERS of trailerable angling boats who are unable to keep their vessels at home, and then there are those who want the ease of access of having their boat readily available for use at a marina, while benefitting from additional security.

While most marinas have a high level of security, none can offer an absolute guarantee that valuable items such as electronics and fishing tackle, for example, are 100 per cent safe from theft.

There are other issues to consider when keeping a boat on a permanent berth too, such as maintenance, keeping the hull free from performance-sapping and possibly damaging marine growths, not to mention the possible

slow ingress of water seeping into the fabric of the hull through any damage to its gel coat.

It's been quite a few years since I last owned a boat, but should I ever decide to return to my formative years as a boat angler and once again fish own a boat, there is no way that I'd want to trailer it around the UK. I find driving a car stressful enough.

Many of my once-favourite launch sites are now gone, and most of those that remain have imposed restrictions on when launching can take place, which I do not like.

Keeping a boat in a marina would be my preference, but some are not without their issues. In many areas there is another option that really appeals to me. Have you ever thought about keeping your boat safely and securely tucked away in a dry stack?

I saw my first dry stack storage facilities many years ago in the Florida Keys where boating is big business, but there is a serious shortage of real estate. Drive from Key Largo to Key West and you will pass countless boat dealerships and small marinas, many of which feature towering compartmented metal-framed structures containing hundreds of boats.

These storage facilities are undoubtedly ugly, non-aesthetic blights on an otherwise beautiful environment, but they really do offer a solution to so many issues. Of course, it wasn't long before similar structures started to appear in the UK.

I recently had the opportunity to take a look at one located at Portland Marina, in Dorset. It opened in 2010 and its facilities were used for the sailing and windsurfing events at London 2012. The marina has 350 berths for boats up to 30 ►

metres, but, in response to an ever-growing demand for berths, its owners have invested in an impressive dry stack, which opened in May 2018.

Offering 132 'berths' undercover for boats up to a maximum of 9.9 metres long, unlike many other dry stacks in the UK, the Portland Marina Dry Stack is clad on the back, sides and roof to give protection from the elements. It also has a sprinkler system for maximum protection against fire.

ADVANTAGES

"Aside from security, one of the major considerations in storing your boat in a dry stack rather than at a wet berth in a marina is that it is cheaper. The cost for dry stack stowage is currently £56 per metre less than a permanent berth, which equates to an immediate saving of £336 for a typical six-metre angling boat," revealed Bee Woodland, the marina's assistant manager.

No doubt you are wondering how long it takes to get your boat from its stowage space into the water. I was too. I put this key question to Bee.

"We need two-hours' notice in order to launch your boat and have her ready and waiting for you on a temporary berth," she replied. "This summer, 2019, we are looking forward to the arrival of a second, new Neptune Hoist negative forklift, meaning Portland Marina will have two hoists available to launch and recover boats, further improving our efficiency."

Dry stack berth holders benefit from other advantages. For example, there is no need to anti-foul your boat's hull if it is stored out of the water, and the marina staff jet wash your boat's hull each time it is returned to the dry stack in order to keep it as clean as possible.

Of course, there will be occasions when you will want access to work on your boat to carry out routine maintenance, for example, and whenever this is the case you simply give the marina the required two-hours' notice, and they will transfer your boat to a suitable work station.

Another advantage available to both marina and dry stack berth holders at Portland Marina, which is owned and managed by Dean and

"Cost for dry stack stowage is £56 per metre less than a permanent berth"

Reddyhoff, is unlimited complimentary weekend stays and up to three weeks berthing at the company's sister marinas, the locations of which can be found on line.

Other facilities of note at Portland include free Wi-Fi, petrol and diesel at cost, plus chandlery and boat care services, for which berth holders are entitled to a 10 per cent discount. There are even showers to wash away the pungent stench of a successful day's fishing, and a restaurant for that important post trip debrief!

CELEBRATION

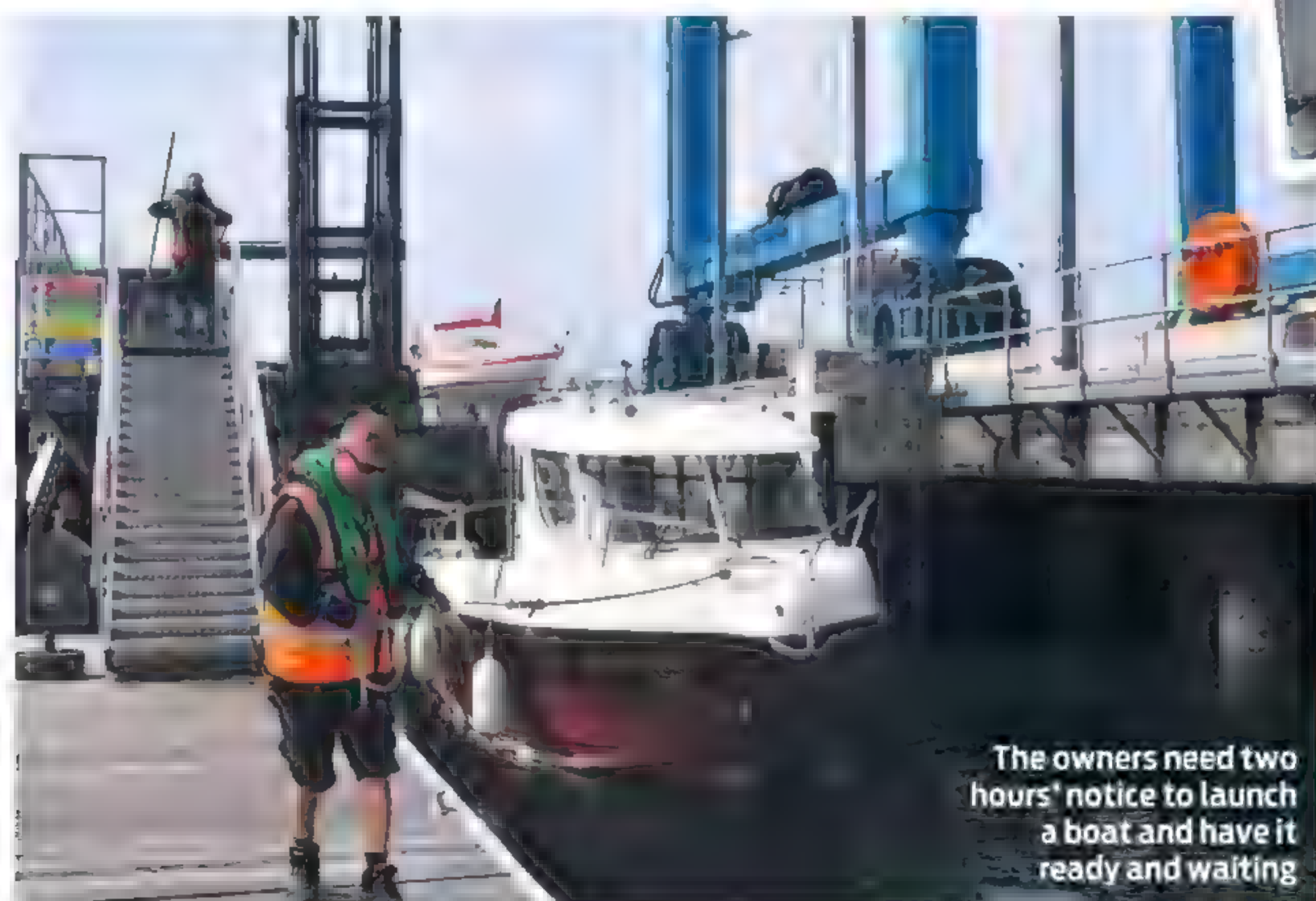
Portland Marina is 10 years old this year, and to celebrate it is hosting Portland Week between August 19 to 25. The aim is to showcase the different ways you can get afloat here, and each day will focus on a different discipline. The spotlight will be on fishing on Friday, August 23.

Several of the businesses on site will be involved, and Big Buoy Charters, Fins Up Fishing Charters and D4 Events are running a species hunt fishing competition on the day, with kayaks, small day boats and customers on the fishing charter boats encouraged to take part.

In the afternoon the marina will be firing up the coals for Hook 'n' Cook, an event where berth holders and visitors to the marina can bring their fresh catch ashore and pop it on the barbecue. Sally's Fish Camp staff will be



It offers 132 'berths' undercover for boats up to a maximum of 9.9 metres long



The owners need two hours' notice to launch a boat and have it ready and waiting

offering crab dressing demonstrations, while there will also be a children's crabbing competition.

While each day will have an individual focus, the overview for the whole week of events is plastic pollution in the marine environment. The marina will be supporting the charity Surfers Against Sewage with various fundraising efforts, including the marina staff walking the plank from the deck of Moonfleet, Portland's tall ship! ■

NEED TO KNOW

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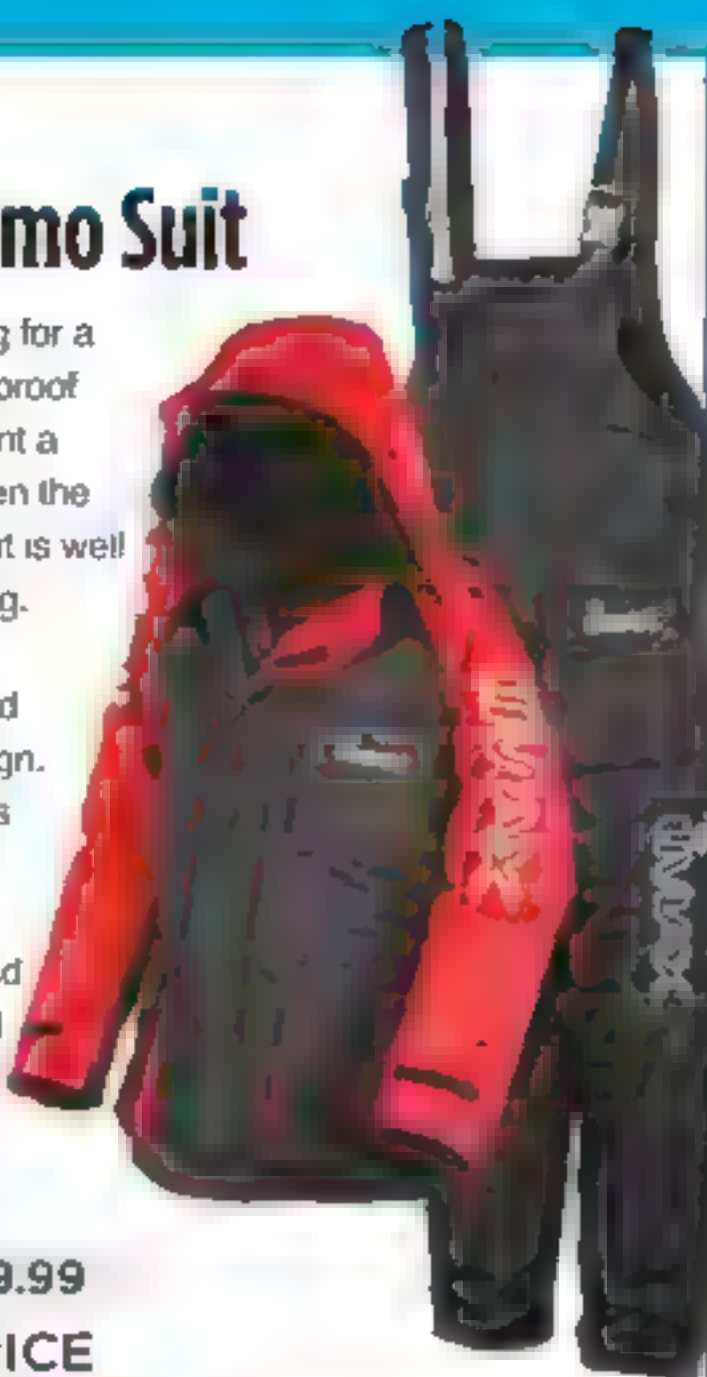
BEST SELLER

IMAX 2pc Thermo Suit

If you are looking for a warm and waterproof suit but don't want a flotation suit then the Imax Thermo suit is well worth considering.

It follows the classic jacket and bib & brace design.

The outer shell is 100% water and wind proof and the high collar and detachable hood combine to keep the worst winter weather at bay.



RRP £129.99
OUR PRICE

£89.99

One of the best value for money suits on the market today

GREYS GRS Rod Series

Greys is a brand that is synonymous with quality, and they always produce excellent rods that are reliable and long-lasting. Their commitment and passion for pushing the boundaries is renowned, and they consistently design and develop state-of-the-art products using a combination of modern technology and traditional methods. A high degree of this philosophy can be found in the new Greys Sea Fishing Rod Series - the GRS

CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
GR2447	GR100S Beach 13ft 4-6oz	£329.99	£129.99
GR2443	GR100S Boat 7ft 9 30lb	£149.99	£49.99
GR2444	GR100S Boat 8ft 20lb	£149.99	£49.99
GR2445	GR100S Boat 8ft 4 12lb	£149.99	£49.99
GR2446	GR100S Boat 8ft 6 8lb	£149.99	£49.99
GR2454	GR75S Boat 8ft 2 6-12lb	£149.99	£50.00
GR2457	GR75S Bass & Flatie 10ft 9 1-3oz	£199.99	£59.99

TRONIXPRO Envoy 7000 FS Reel

Lightweight, powerful and reliable, the Envoy Fixed Spool from Tronixpro is the ideal partner for continental style surf rods, letting you cast to the horizon every time. Features a grippy rubberised handle, lightweight frame, infinite anti-reverse and a powerful drag that'll stop anything that swims. The high capacity spool is built to hold all line you'll need if your catch heads for the horizon.

RRP £54.99
OUR PRICE

£45



Capacity
20lb/230yd

BEST SELLER

DAIWA Seahunter Z Boat

- Light blank design
- Sensitive tip performance
- Versatile line range
- 4 sections

CODE	LGTH	CASTS	RRP	OUR PRICE
DW8253	7ft6	12-20lb	£54.99	£40.00
DW8254	7ft6	20-30lb		
DW8255	7ft6	30-50lb		

RRP £54.99
OUR PRICE
£40.00

DAIWA Windcast Surf

Multiplier

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
DW7110	13ft	4-8oz	2	£199.99	£100.00
DW7111	14ft	4-8oz	2	£199.99	£115.00

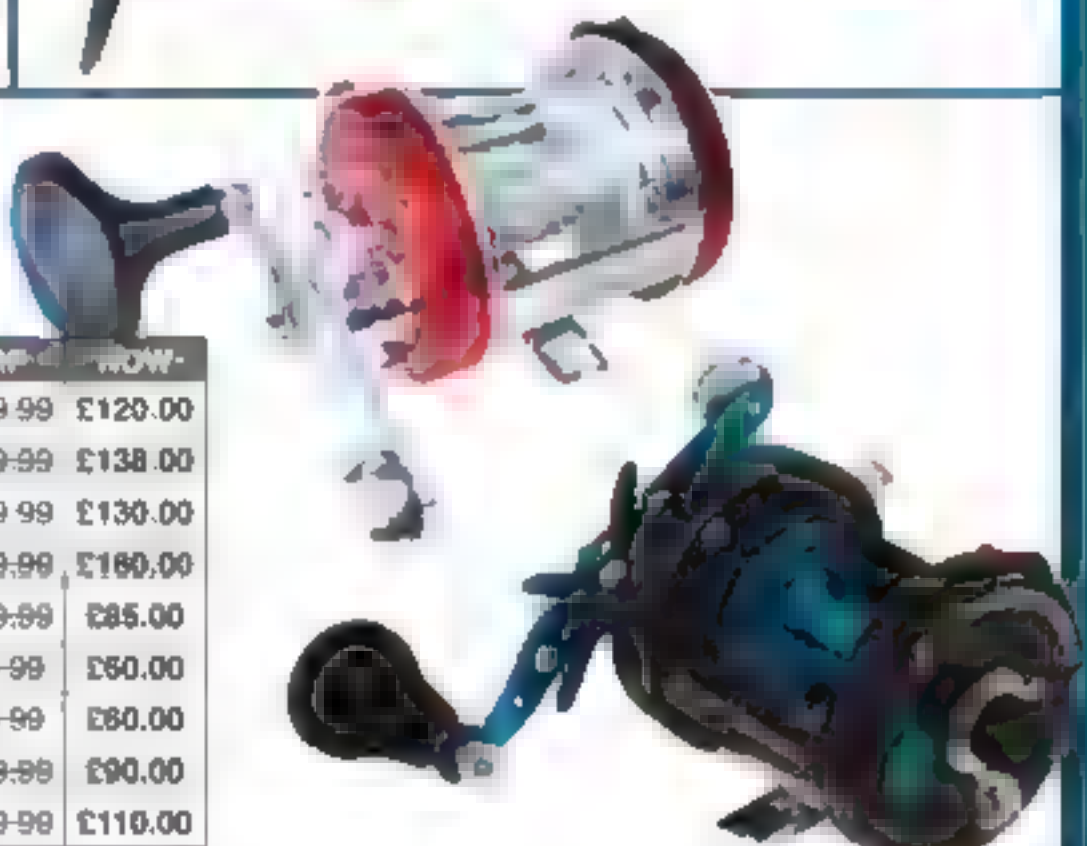
Fixed Spool

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
DW8190	14ft	3-7oz	3	£199.99	£115.00
DW8191	15ft	3-7oz	3	£209.99	£120.00
DW8192	16ft	3-7oz	3	£219.99	£130.00

Abu Garcia Multiplier Reels

SALE

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PU1513	6500C3 CT Mag	200m/0 40mm	£209.99	£120.00
PU1514	6500C3 CT	200m/0 40mm	£229.99	£138.00
PU1823	6500 CT Chrome Rocket	200m/0 40mm	£229.99	£130.00
PU2096	Ambass. 6500i TSR	255m/0 35mm	£299.99	£180.00
PU3208	7500i CS Elite LW	270m/0 45mm	£149.99	£85.00
PU3804	Ambass. SX Left Hand 560i	210m/0 35mm	£94.99	£60.00
PU3806	Ambass. SX Left Hand 660i	230m/0 38mm	£94.99	£60.00
PU3845	Ambass. 6500 CS LW	200m/0 40mm	£149.99	£90.00
PU4235	Blue Yonder C3 6500	310m/0 30mm	£199.99	£110.00



DAIWA Seahunter Z Surf Rods

- Highly reliable and durable high carbon blanks
- Hard chromed Aluminium Oxide guides

RRP £110.00
OUR PRICE

£70

CODE	LGTH	CASTS	PCS
DW7352	15ft	4-8oz	3

TRONIXPRO Aphex Continental TT

Designed in a continental style, three-piece configuration, this is a "conti", with added brute force!

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£92.99

CODE	LGTH	AFTM	PCS
TX6224	13ft	100-250g	3
TX6225	14ft	100-250g	3
TX6226	15ft	100-250g	3

TRONIXPRO Envoy Reels

Capacity
250m/0 35mm

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£25



Some of the best value for money reel ranges we've ever seen! Classically good looking, long casting with Magnetic Brakes.

CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
TX3132	Tournament Orbit RHW	£94.99	£40.00
TX3133	Tournament Orbit LHW	£94.99	£40.00
TX4548	Tournament Mono Mag RHW	£109.99	£40.00
TX4550	Tournament Mono Mag LHW	£109.99	£40.00
TX4551	Tournament LW RHW	£104.99	£60.00
TX4553	Mono Mag RHW	£89.99	£38.00
TX5805	Envoy Fifty Five 5500 LHW	£84.99	£35.00
TX5806	Envoy Fifty Five 5500 LHW	£84.99	£35.00
TX1634	Orbit 6500 Right	£85.99	£25.00
TX3130	Tournament Mag RHW	£99.99	£40.00

SONIK Vader XS Shore Rods

Superb multi modulus carbon fibre two piece blanks with progressive casting action, with sensitive h-vis tips for bite detection.

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£54.99

CODE	MODEL	PRICE
SO0622	13ft 2pc 4-6oz	£54.99
SO0623	14ft 2pc 4-7oz	£64.99
SO0624	15ft 3pc 4-7oz	£79.99

SONIK SKS Black Shore Rods

Each rod is individually tailored to offer the perfect 'all round' actions, which mean they are as effective on clean ground as they are in heavy terrain.

CODE	LGTH	MODEL	PCS
SO0244	12ft	4-6oz	2
SO0245	13ft	4-6oz	2
SO0246	14ft	5-7oz	2

OUR PRICES
FROM ONLY

£79.99

PENN GS 525 MAG3 Series

PRICE MATCH PROMISE



- Latest version of the classic all round beach casting reel
- Upgraded graphite frame

RRP £179.99
OUR PRICE

£130

CAPACITY
15lb/280yd

PENN Surfblaster II Fixed Spool Reel

Ideal for all surf-casting situations over clean and mixed rough ground.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY
PE1777	7000	330yds/15lb
PE1778	8000	370yds/15lb

RRP UP TO £114.99
OUR PRICE

£82

DAIWA D-Wave Bass Combo

Daiwa D-Wave Combos are designed to deliver an outstanding package of hardware to get you out fishing, at an unbeatable price.

RRP £62.99
OUR PRICE

£45

- Combo includes:
 - D-Wave 11ft 1-3oz 2pc Rod
 - D-Wave 5000B Reel with Mono

Beach Rods

Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch Beach. Probably one of the best all round shore rods Century has ever produced.

CODE	LGTH	MODEL	OUR PRICE
CN0180	13ft 6	4-7oz	£499.00

Eliminator T900 Guide Rod. Features Century's STF (spread low fabric) to improve AT T anti-twist.

CODE	LGTH	MODEL	OUR PRICE
CN0114	14ft 4	4-7oz	£520.00

Visit our website to see the full range!

TRONIXPRO Rockfish LRF Rods

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
TX4884	Light	7ft 6	3-12g	£30.00
TX4885	Med. Light	7ft 10	7-28g	£35.00
TX4886	Ultra-light	6ft 11	0.5-7g	£30.00

SONIK SKS 8000 Black Surf Reel

A full-sized surf reel designed to meet the needs of the UK beach angler.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY
SO0481	8000	220yds/20lb

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**NEW
SERIES**

GET INTO BOAT FISHING PART 2

HOW TO TAKE THE HELM

Being your own skipper gives you the freedom of the seas, but what does owning a boat entail?



MOST people who own small boats began their boat-fishing lives on larger charter boats, getting hooked on the thrill of fishing afloat before taking the plunge and buying their own vessel.

Unlike the relative stability of a 36ft-plus charter boat, fishing from a much smaller platform, such as a 16ft Orkney, is a completely different experience. It's not advisable to cut your boat-fishing teeth on a smaller vessel unless you have previous experience of going to sea on small boats.

The first thing you'll notice when stepping on board a small boat is the amount of movement. Just a simple thing like walking to one side to see what your mate has caught can make the boat become unstable, especially in a choppy sea. You'll also discover that the ride out to your fishing grounds is often much bumpier.

Standing upright on a small boat requires using muscles that you never normally use just to keep your balance. Quite often you'll return from a day's small-boat fishing aching in places you never thought existed – but that's all part of the fun.

The main advantage of owning a small boat is the freedom it gives you to go fishing when you want (weather permitting) and, of course, the solitude of just you and a mate being on board to do as you please without having to worry about what the rest of the party or skipper want to do.

It's this freedom to move and fish where you want that draws so many sea anglers into buying their own boat. Like all forms of fishing, the sense of achievement can be immense when you make a great catch from your own pride and joy.

GO CLUBBING FIRST

Just like charter boat fishing, there are loads of small-boat angling clubs dotted around the UK, and if you're serious about getting into small-boat fishing, then it's a good idea to join a club first.

Go and see other boat owners at one of their meets, and ask to step on board a few vessels. You might get invited out for a few days' fishing too, and that will give you a far better insight into what small-boat fishing is all about.

It's a good idea to help a few owners launch and retrieve too, to give you a good indication of what's involved. Make sure you have knowledge of where you'll be fishing from and how the boats are launched and retrieved there. If it's from a slipway in a marina, that's fine, but if it's from an open beach, then you seriously need to do your homework.

Beach launching is a relatively easy affair, but it can all go wrong in a nanosecond. I've seen even the most experienced owners flip their boat in the surf. I'd suggest launching from a slipway if possible to begin with until you are familiar with your boat.

Then, of course, there's the towing aspect. If you've never towed anything before then

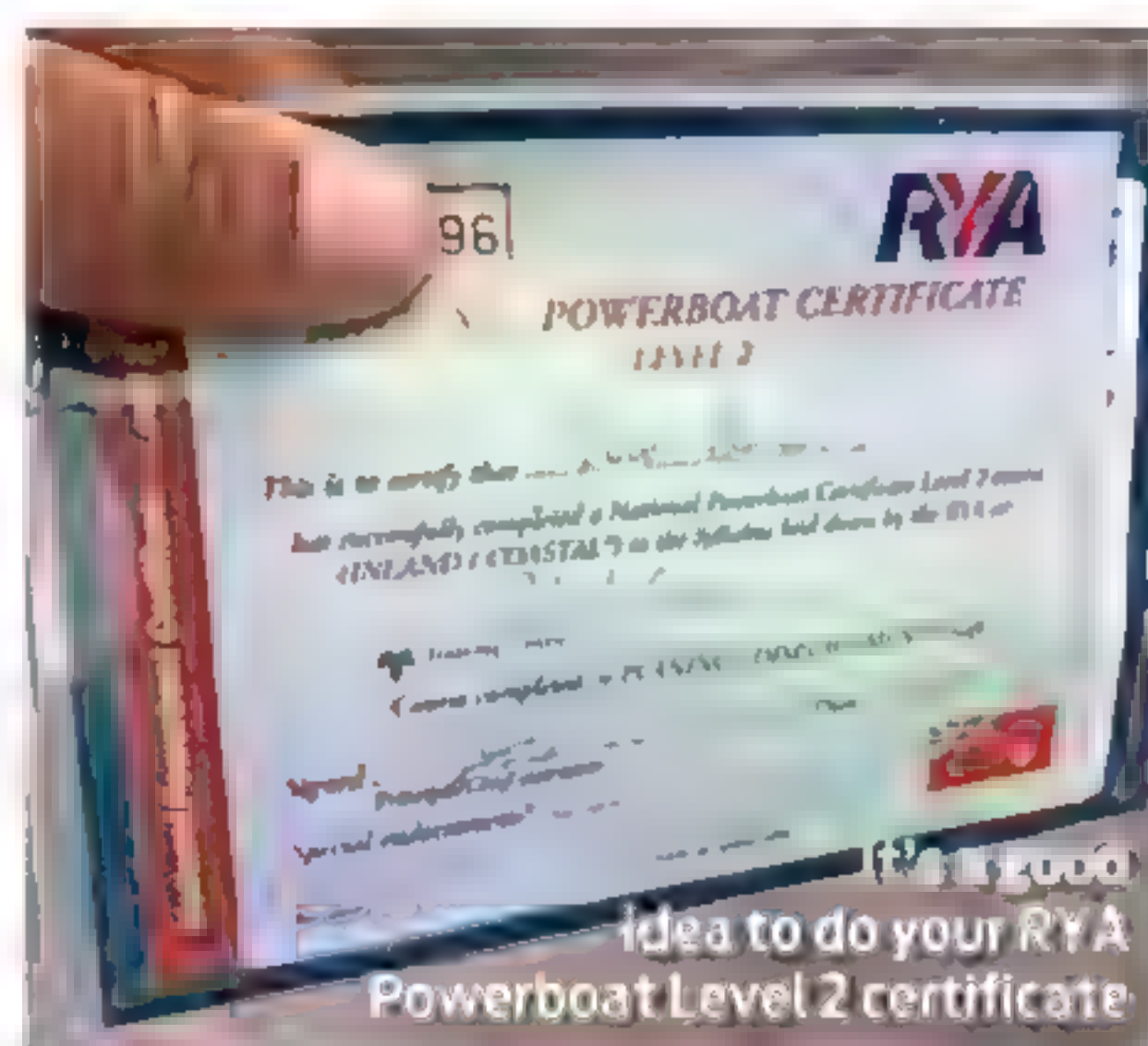
that's a skill to be mastered, and trust me, reversing down a tight slipway to launch is not as easy as some folk make it look.

NO LICENCE REQUIRED

Believe it or not the UK is the only country in the EU that doesn't require you to have any qualifications before you buy yourself a boat and go to sea. Crazy isn't it?

Anyone can pop down their local boatyard, buy a boat and go straight out to sea that very same day without a care in the world. Thank heavens for the RNLI.

We would advise you to get some form of training before you take to the sea though. A good starting point is the Powerboat Level 2 course offered by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). This course ends with you obtaining a certificate, which is internationally recognised. The course lasts two days, mostly at sea, covering all aspects of boating from docking to man overboard manoeuvres, engine and throttle control, rope work, basic navigation and loads more essential stuff you need to be safe on the water. The short amount of time you spend on land in the 'classroom' is where you'll learn about the various types of cardinal buoys, marker buoys and how to plan basic navigation – all essential tools if you want to survive at sea.



SAFETY FIRST

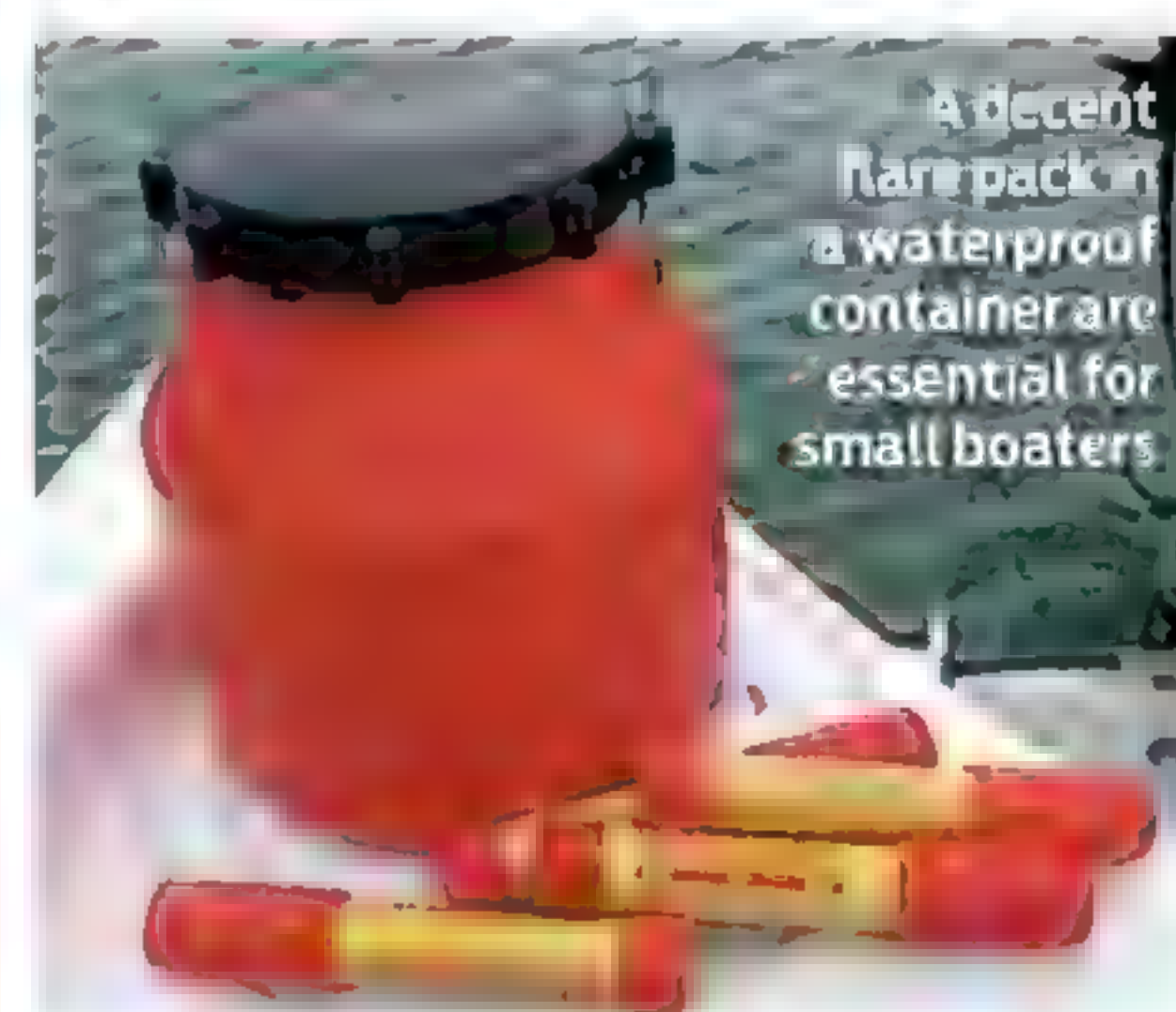
Apart from the boat, engine and trailer, there are items you have to buy when you own a small boat, most of which are geared towards safety. Let's take a look at a few essentials you'll need before you set off on your first big adventure...

1 LIFEJACKETS

You need to ensure that you carry enough lifejackets for everyone on board. Because it's a small boat it's rare that there will be more than two of you. These need not be too elaborate, in fact the best are those you can wear all the time, then you don't need to scramble about getting them out if a situation arises. You can buy the self-inflating ones for less than £60, which will inflate once in the water and have a tube to blow into for more buoyancy.

2 FLARES

Make sure the flares you have are in date and kept in a waterproof container. They are a failsafe if everything else goes wrong, such as your electrics/radio failing. Flares used to be more important when small-boat owners didn't have radios and mobiles, but still have their place as a back-up for attracting attention. Make sure you know how to use them, and we don't mean setting one off so you know how they work. Get in touch with your local RNLI station and ask when they're next doing a flare-demonstration day – you'll then be able to see how to set off the flares and what they actually do and look like in operation.



3 VHF RADIOS

Having a decent fixed VHF radio on board is just as important as carrying flares. A radio can guide any help to you, if required. It's more important to let someone know you are in danger than setting off a flare in the hope that someone sees it.

The quality of modern VHF radios and antennae is excellent and you needn't spend a fortune on one. Most small boaters carry a fixed VHF unit and/or a good-quality handheld back-up. Don't forget you'll need to do your short-range marine radio course to obtain a certificate to use the radio. It's a good idea to do this anyway because it will teach you marine radio etiquette as well as what to do in an emergency. ▶

SEA SCHOOL

NEW SERIES: START BOAT FISHING - PART TWO



Small-boat fishing can take you close to places where bigger boats can't reach

4 AUXILIARY ENGINE

If you have space on the transom it will give you a peace of mind to fit a bracket for an auxiliary engine. A small outboard can be carried on the mounting or out of the way in the cabin if needs be. As long as it's got sufficient power to push your boat along, it could save you from some embarrassing moments and possibly save your life. A 5hp auxiliary engine can cost as little as £400.

5 SPARE ANCHOR

If you've had to cut your anchor for any reason, a spare one with rope will keep you in a set position, making it easier for the emergency services to find you, if necessary. It's not uncommon to lose an anchor in a wreck or on rough ground, and there have been occasions where a ship is bearing down on a small boat, and cutting the anchor is the quickest and safest way of getting out of the way quickly. Which brings us on to sharp knives.

6 SHARP KNIVES

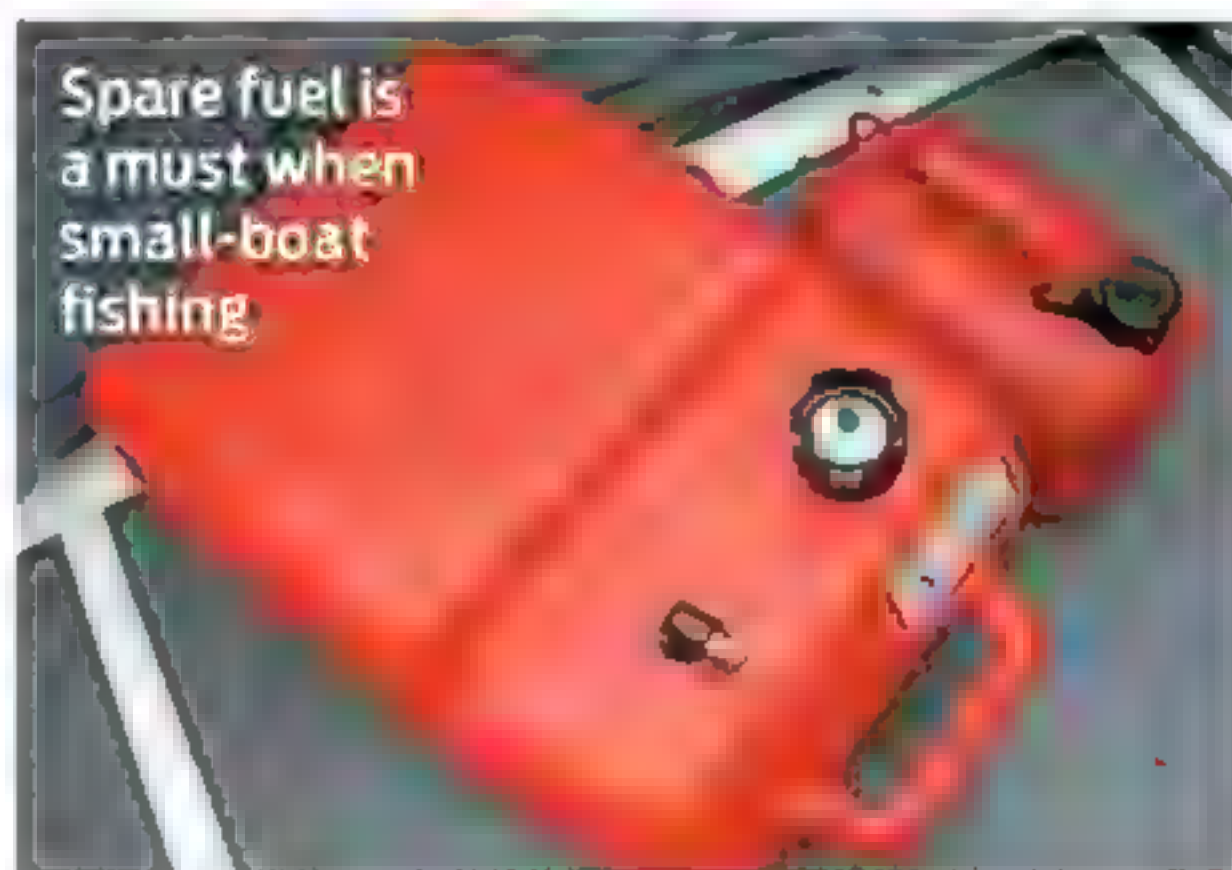
Many small-boat owners keep a sharp knife near the stern in case the outboard tangles with the anchor warp, or even a lobster pot rope. If you find yourself anchored by a rope around the engine in a fair run of tide, you will find it very scary indeed. The boat will quickly flip around in the tide, and because the stern of the boat is not designed to take the waves head on, water will quickly come over the transom. Having a knife to hand can

sometimes save the day and prevent you from sinking.

7 SPARE FUEL

The need for carrying spare fuel cannot be emphasised enough. Most breakdowns at sea occur through lack of fuel, as on dry land with cars. Fuel consumption can be affected by the tides, the wind and even decisions to go that little bit further than intended in search of fish. Another consideration to make is if you go to help another boat by towing them in, which uses up masses of fuel and you could both find yourselves in trouble if you haven't taken some spare with you.

Spare fuel is a must when small-boat fishing



8 EXTRA CLOTHING

Changes in the temperature on seemingly nice days can leave someone suffering from hypothermia quite quickly, especially after an unexpected heavy rain shower. A stiff breeze can chill you to the bone, and it's a good idea to have some spare clothing

tucked away for such an occasion. A windproof jacket is probably best as it takes little room, but keeps off the chill. Hoodies and waterproof trousers are also a good idea. You can store these compacted down tight in a waterproof boat bag.

9 WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

If you zip offshore on a balmy windless summer's day, how much thought would you give to your fluid intake? Carrying excess water over and above what you think you'll need is the number one rule. If you get into difficulty miles offshore then you're going to need water to stay hydrated. Think - water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink.

The thrill of the chase – it feels like you're going much faster on a small boat compared to a larger boat



NEXT MONTH

■ **Part 3** – The types of boat fishing available around the UK.

Words by John Holden

FIXED-SPOOL DECISIONS

Deep down you think that quality always wins, but maybe you could be wrong...

SLOWLY, SLOWLY I AM WARMING TO the idea of long rods and light lines for some of my fishing. Fixed-spool reels are the obvious way to go, which leaves me in a bit of a hole because mine are well out of date. Since I'm planning to upgrade soon, which should I choose?

My friends in the Far East know more about fixed spools than I do, so what do they recommend? They confirm that premium models from renowned companies deliver a small but often decisive edge for tournaments. Advanced spool format and line-lay mechanisms as part of an overall superbly engineered package are the key benefits.

They reserve their very best reels purely for casting. The same is true in the UK, the big difference being that we focus on multipliers rather than fixed spools. Like us, fixed-spool enthusiasts think nothing of spending a small fortune on the reel, then as much again on tuning and custom upgrades. All for a few more metres.

The consensus is that a well made but simple reel is a wiser choice for the beach. Being fishermen as well as casters, they stressed the importance of choosing a model that slotted in with the overall scheme of things: rod, line, rigs, casting method, and especially whether the reel felt comfortable and nice to handle.

Many people added ruggedness to the list. The Malaysian brigade made this a priority, which isn't surprising in view of their liking for species such as big stingrays – even the freshwater ones top 200kg. To cover a wide spectrum of beach and field work, I should find a reel with both high capacity and shallow spools, they said, to allow switching between light and heavy lines.

SPOILED FOR CHOICE

On the face of it, UK anglers seem spoiled for choice. As well as saltwater reels there are carp models that seem equally viable for the beach. Desirable coned spools and asymmetrical line-lay are available across a wide range of prices. General specifications, such as capacity and gearing, also seem remarkably similar across the market.

Not so long ago, it went without saying that anything less than a respected brand of fixed-spool reel was a waste of time and money. Judging by my own recent experiences, along with feedback from so many anglers, I'm no longer sure.

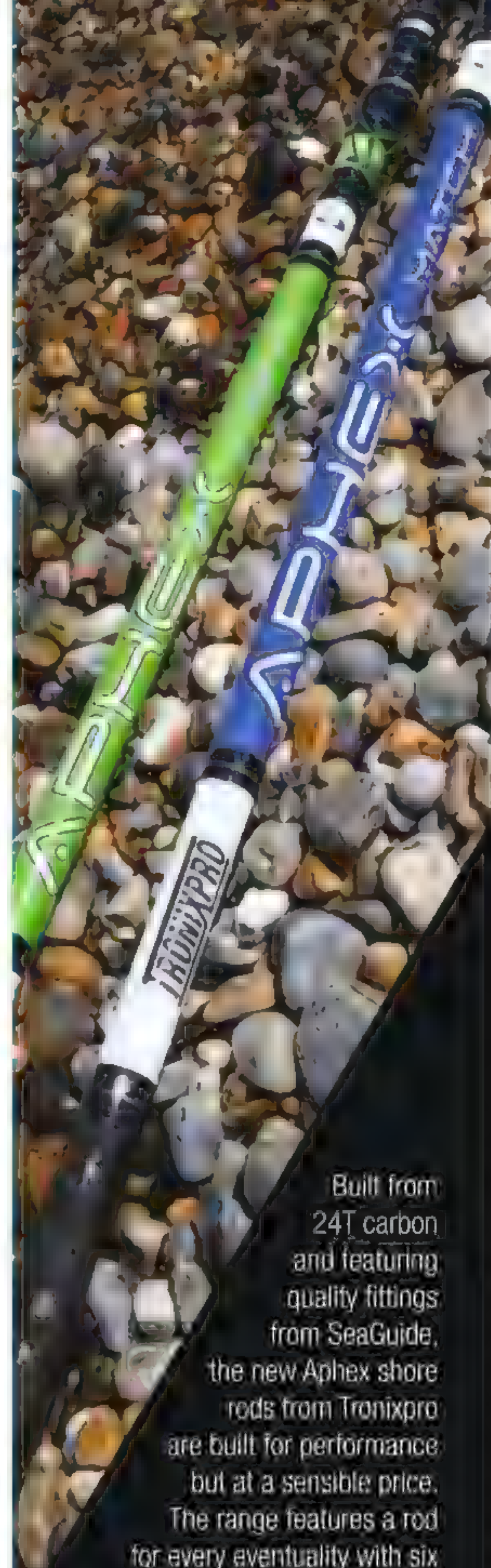
While rubbish still lurks to rip off the unwary,



some budget reels seem pretty much on a par with models costing several times as much. Deep down my gut still says that quality always wins in the end. Maybe I'm wrong; that's why I'm taking a closer look before jumping in with both feet.

Meanwhile, I soldier on with an ancient Shimano Aerlex. I've put a collar into the spool to reduce the capacity to about 175 metres of 10lb mono. Line-lay is adequately neat and even. Line twist is bad but manageable. After a decade, the gears and drag remain smooth enough, but in comparison with modern reels, it is like driving around the M25 in a Morris Minor. I need a new fixed spool. But which one? ■

IRONIXPRO



Built from 24T carbon and featuring quality fittings from SeaGuide, the new Apex shore rods from Tronixpro are built for performance but at a sensible price. The range features a rod for every eventuality with six rods to choose from, including two continental surfcasting rods and four beachcasters. Whether you're fishing for numbers of fish in a match situation or battling a deep water conger or tope, there is a rod to match.

TRONIXPRO.COM

KNOW YOUR SPECIALIST RIGS

THE NED RIG

This small jig head and soft plastic combination was devised by anglers in the American Midwest

THE Ned rig, named after American angling pioneer Ned Kehde, is a finesse rig with a light jig head and buoyant plastic stick bait allowing a slow, more horizontal or spiralling descent through the water column. It also stands up off the seabed.

Here we use a Z-Man Finesse Shroomz Ned Rig jig head of 1.4g to 5.7g (right), which includes a wire keeper to hold a 2 3/4in Z-Man Finesse TRP. An option is a weedless jig head with a Z-Man TRD TubeZ (below).

The light jig head produces a really slow, gliding and darting descent through the water, and can be fished in most rocky areas on a slack line. Try it for bass.

STEP BY STEP...

1 The jig head hook needs to exit the lure slightly less than halfway along the body.

2 Insert the hook into the lure, so the lure exits at that point.

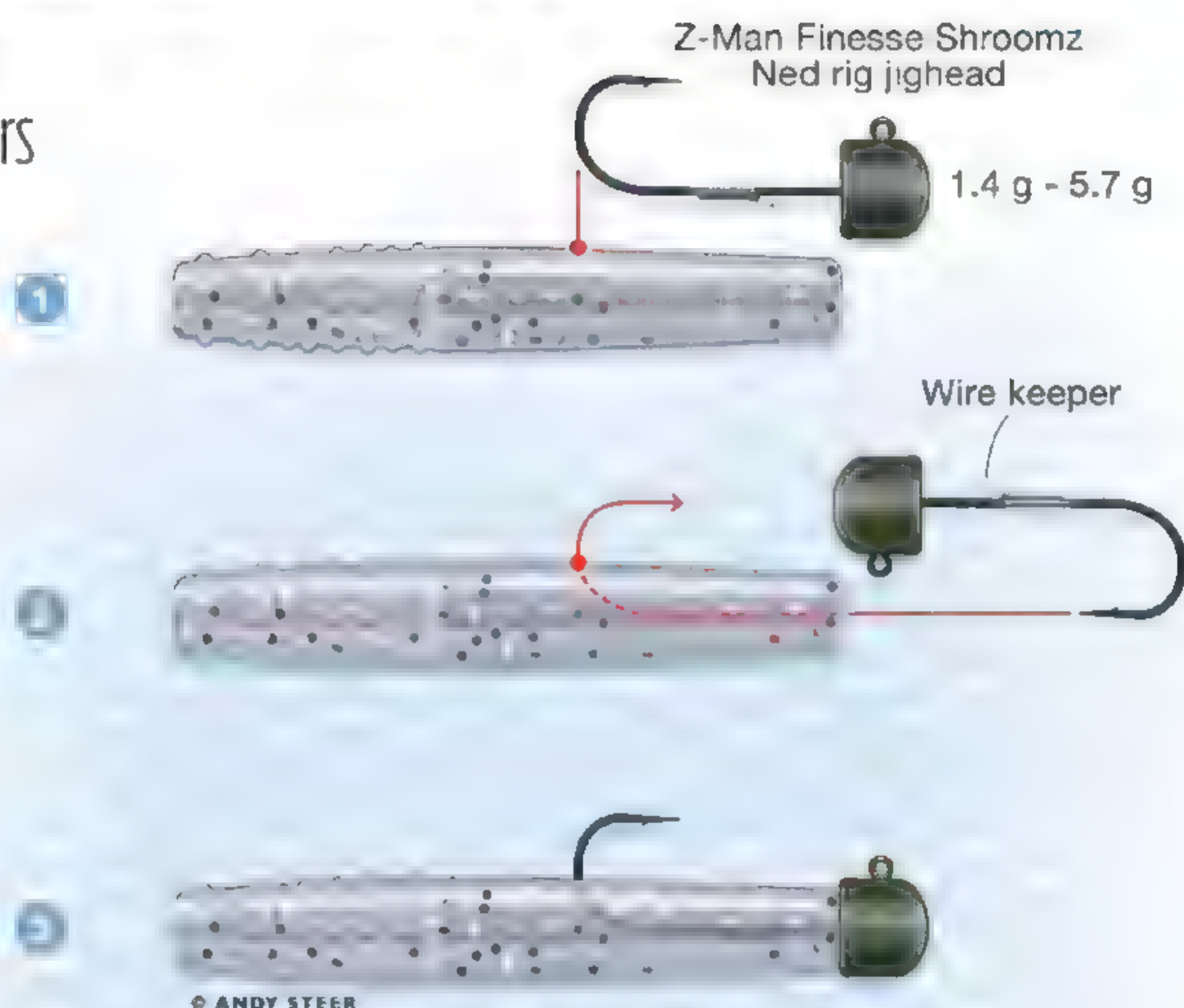
3 The completed Ned rig. Tie it to a 0.16mm fluorocarbon leader.



Fluorocarbon leader 0.16 mm

Grinner knot

Naturally buoyant



Artwork by Andy Steer

The printed edition of 'Light Rock Fishing – Hard Rock Fishing Knots & Rigs' is now available at <http://amzn.eu/d/ctqSCI9>

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KENZAKI

LEAVING OTHER BOAT RODS IN OUR WAKE

Whilst the original Super Kenzaki rods were the first ever equal length, two section boat rods, the range has evolved and the choice diversified over time. Today 14 different designs, including fixed spool versions offer anglers the perfect rod option wherever they are going.

MODEL	TYPE	LENGTH	RATING	PCS
SKZB7012-BU	DOWN TIDE	7'	6-12lb	2
SKZB7020-BU	DOWN TIDE	7'	12-20lb	2
SKZB7030-BU	DOWN TIDE	7'	20-30lb	2
SKZB7050-BU	DOWN TIDE	7'	30-50lb	2
SKZB8015-BU	DOWN TIDE	8'	6-15lb	2
SKZB8025-BU	DOWN TIDE	8'	15-25lb	2
SKZB7612FS-BU	FIXED SPOOL	7' 6"	6-12lb	2
SKZB7620FS-BU	FIXED SPOOL	7' 6"	12-20lb	2
SKZB7630FS-BU	FIXED SPOOL	7' 6"	20-30lb	2
SKZB7020-4-BU	TRAVEL	7'	12-20lb	4
SKZB7030-4-BU	TRAVEL	7'	20-30lb	4
SKZB7050-4-BU	TRAVEL	7'	30-50lb	4
SKZB6660-3-BU	TRAVEL	6' 6"	40-60lb	3
SKZU962-BU	UPTIDE	9' 6"	4-10oz	2

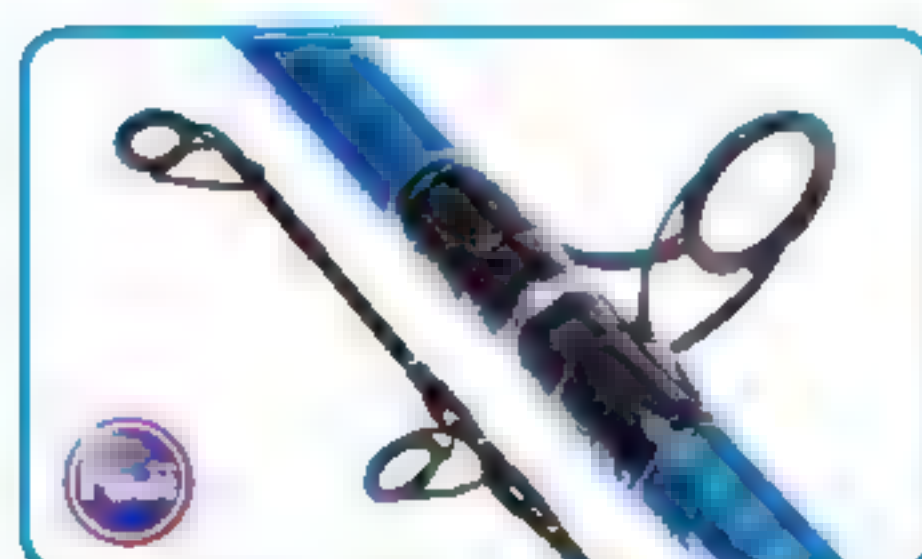
All models - RRP £150



Powerlift Grip



Fuji Reel Seat



Fuji Guides



V - Joint

SEA SCHOOL

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Q&A

SHORE FISHING

ASK THE EXPERTS

WHEN SENDING YOUR QUESTION, PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS



PAUL FENECH

Sea Angler's features and tackle editor. Paul is here to solve your shore angling problems.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



MARK CRAME

Suffolk-based Mark gets a thrill from fishing afloat on a kayak. Send him your kayaking queries.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, will answer questions on lure angling.



DAN SISSONS

The Portsmouth angler will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

HOW TO ASK A QUESTION

■ WRITE TO:
Q&A, Sea Angler,
Media House,
Lynchwood
Business Park,
Peterborough
PE2 6EA
Email: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk
Online: www.facebook.com/seaanglermag

Q: I want to target summer species such as bass and smoothhounds at night. Do you have any advice?

WILLIAM PARRISH, DORCHESTER, DORSET

PF says: In the height of summer, we don't get a lot of darkness between sunset and sunrise, but what we do have can offer superb results.

Bass are one of those predators that love to venture very close to the shore, chasing other fish such as pout, whiting and

sandeels. Try casting a fillet of mackerel in the edge, and don't forget to have the drag on your reel appropriately set.

Sometimes, a tiny bait intended to hook a small fish is brilliant for livebaiting too. Try not to shine bright headlights on to the water when fishing close.

Smoothhounds are also a fish that become prolific under the cover of darkness. These fish feed heavily on crabs and shrimps. Again, always make sure that your reel drag is set correctly because a runaway hound can easily drag your rod from the tripod.

A standard casting rig should be fished past the low tide mark for deepwater species such as smoothhounds

Try a three-hook rig just out from where the beach lip meets the sand

Q: What's the best way to retrieve my gear in order to stop my reel's gears getting damaged?

AIDAN FAWCETT, SALISBURY, WILTS

PF says: First step is to free the rig from the seabed and get it moving. Fixed-grip weights are always hard to shift, and even breakouts can be reluctant to move until line tension is high enough to unlock the swivel wires.

Wind in and lower the rod tip until the line is nicely tight, stop reeling, then smoothly increase line tension by lifting the rod tip high. Hold the pressure for a few moments, and the rig should start moving.

Reel in steadily and keep the line under constant, moderate tension. In the case of a CT multiplier, spread the line evenly across the spool. Fixed-spool or level-wind multipliers will do it automatically.

If the line collects scraps of weed, clean them off as they run through the rod rings. Sometimes you'll need to clean the leader knot before it will pass through your rod's tip ring.

With a hooked fish on the line, or when the rig drags through rocks and mud, straightforward winding may be too difficult. Overcome that by pumping the rod. Crank the handle and drop the rod tip at the same time; when the rod tip points towards the water, lift the tip high. Repeat the exercise all the way in, maintaining a smooth rhythm



Turn your headlight off while fishing. Bright lights scare fish away, especially bass

Small fish swim close in at night and are followed by predators like bass



Only lip hook the fish so it stays alive

A pouting livebait often attracts a hungry bass

SEA SCHOOL

OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

Q: Whenever I fish from the beach, I always try to cast long distances. Am I missing out on fish closer in?

ANDREW ROBINS, CARDIF

PF says: There's no denying the importance of casting skills. It really does help you to determine where fish are likely to be feeding.

Visualise the wind and tide direction.

Targeting distances from the beach will change depending on the weather. For example, if the wind is blowing from the beach, you'll need to cast further out.

The distance you cast will also depend on the time of day. In the morning, fish are likely to be feeding closer in, while in the afternoon they'll be further out.

Visualise the wind and tide direction. If the wind is blowing from the beach, you'll need to cast further out. If the tide is in, you'll need to cast further in.



Q: I've noticed that sometimes when I cast I see bits of my bait flying off. How can I prevent this?

DESIAN MORGAN, BRAY (PB. 2455)



Match the hook size to the bait and ensure the barb is exposed

PF says: Yes, we've all been there! When you cast the hook, you can see bits of the bait flying off. This is a common problem, but easily fixed.

For a quick fix, use a smaller hook. A smaller hook will fit into the bait's head more easily, and the bait will be less likely to fly off.

The bait's head is the most important part. If the head is damaged, the bait will fly off. Make sure the head is intact and the hook is properly inserted.

Visualise the wind and tide direction. If the wind is blowing from the beach, you'll need to cast further out. If the tide is in, you'll need to cast further in.

Remember, the bait's head is the most important part. If the head is damaged, the bait will fly off. Make sure the head is intact and the hook is properly inserted.

The Pennell is a great bait for many reasons. It's long, thin, and has a soft, realistic texture. It's also easy to use and can be cast from a distance.



The Pennell is ideal for multiple worm baits—remember to add the sliver of squid

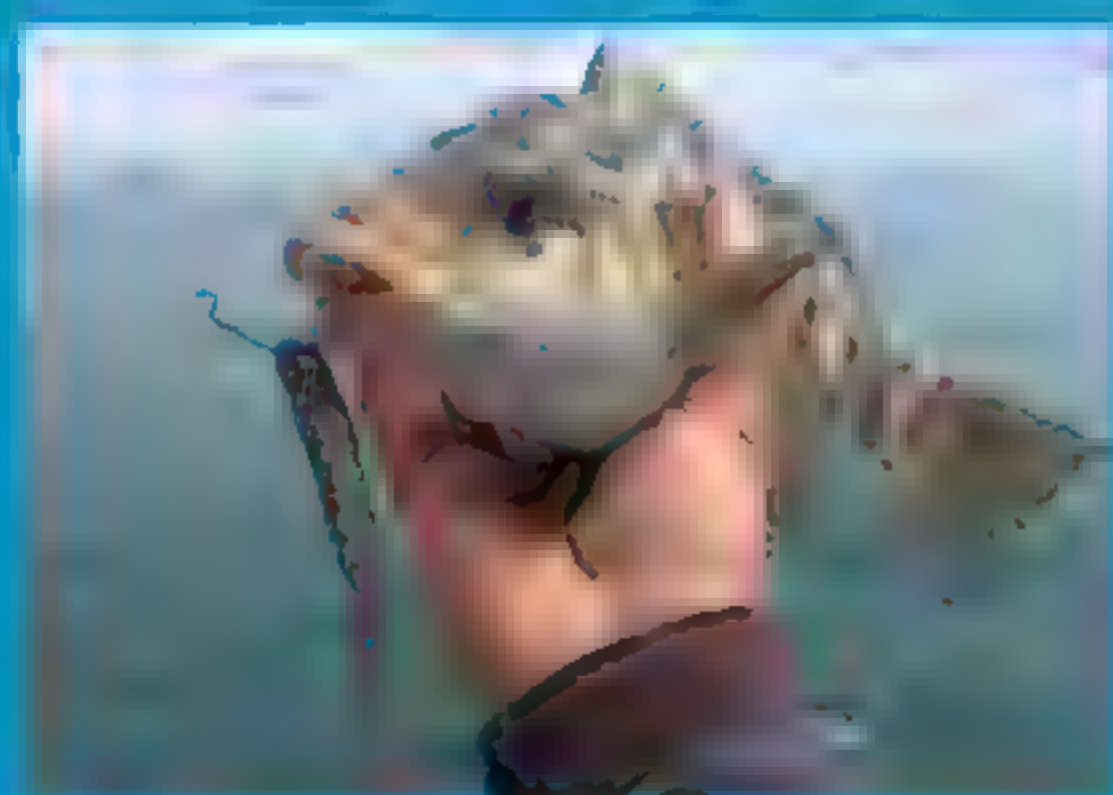
Q&A

LRF

Q: I hear that certain soft plastic lures do not mix well with other lures. Should I leave them in their packaging?

GRANT ABRAHAM, SWINDON, WILTS

DS says: There is a question that arises about soft plastic lures. Some anglers have noticed that certain boxes of lures seem to have a 'bad' smell. This is usually due to the fact that the lures are made from a soft plastic material. When you open the box, the smell is often quite strong. However, this is not a problem with the lures themselves. The smell is simply a result of the plastic material. Most anglers will not notice the smell at all. And even if you do, it will not affect the performance of the lures. In fact, the smell is often a good sign that the lures are made from a high-quality plastic material. So, there is no need to worry about the smell. Just use the lures as normal.



Q: Does fishing weedless around snaggy areas affect hook-up rates when boat fishing?

PHIL RODGERS, HASTINGS, SUSSEX

DS says: I know that many anglers who fish in weedless areas will tell you that hook-up rates are low. However, this is not always the case. In fact, fishing weedless can be a very effective way to catch fish. The key is to use the right technique. When fishing weedless, you need to use a lure that is designed to be weedless. This means that the lure has a soft, flexible body that can bend and move around in the water. This allows the lure to move through the weeds without getting caught. As a result, the lure can move closer to the fish, increasing the chances of a hook-up. So, if you are fishing in weedless areas, make sure you are using the right technique and the right lure. This will help you to increase your hook-up rates.



Q: Lightweight LRF tackle seems ideally suited to catching mullet, but is there a way to get them to take a lure?

ADRIAN FULLER, CHATHAM, KENT

DS says: I have been fortunate enough to land a few thin lips and golden greys on lures,

but it is even more frustrating than targeting them on bait.

I suggest you spend more time watching their habits before dragging a lure through a swim because these fish are easy to spook.

If they look like they are feeding, then a small worm pattern, or even a tiny paddletail, will attract some interest.

A Mepps spinner can also muster a follow, especially from thin-lipped mullet.

Q: I have been painting my lead jigheads to make them more attractive, but I'm not sure if it makes a difference. Am I wasting my time?

PAUL WINTERS, GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK

DS says: Well done for thinking outside of the box, and any preparation of your lures is never wasted time.

I like a jighead to match nicely with a lure, whether it's colour or profile, but I can't say that it affects catch rates too much. There is no doubt that confidence in your lures

and jigheads will put more fish in the net.

If I am retrieving a lure quickly through surf or fast-moving water, I will only concentrate on the lure pattern rather than the colour, but if I am targeting fish that are very wary, then I put more thought into the whole set-up and will use jigheads that match the lure colour for a maximum natural look.



Q: How do I attach a net head and be able to fold it down to carry it?

JOHN KEAT, BY EMAIL

DS says: Good work for considering a net, not only for fish care, but also when you catch the fish of a lifetime you need to land it safely without putting yourself in danger.

I use a couple of telescopic net handles of varying lengths and several different net heads that fit into a standard three-eighths inch handle. My intended target will determine what head I take and also how much walking is involved.

Unfortunately, none of these can fold back, but I have found one that does. HTO makes a folding rubber net head that looks like it will do the job and still screw on to most handles.

OUR EXPERTS SOLVE YOUR FISHING PROBLEMS

LURE ANGLING

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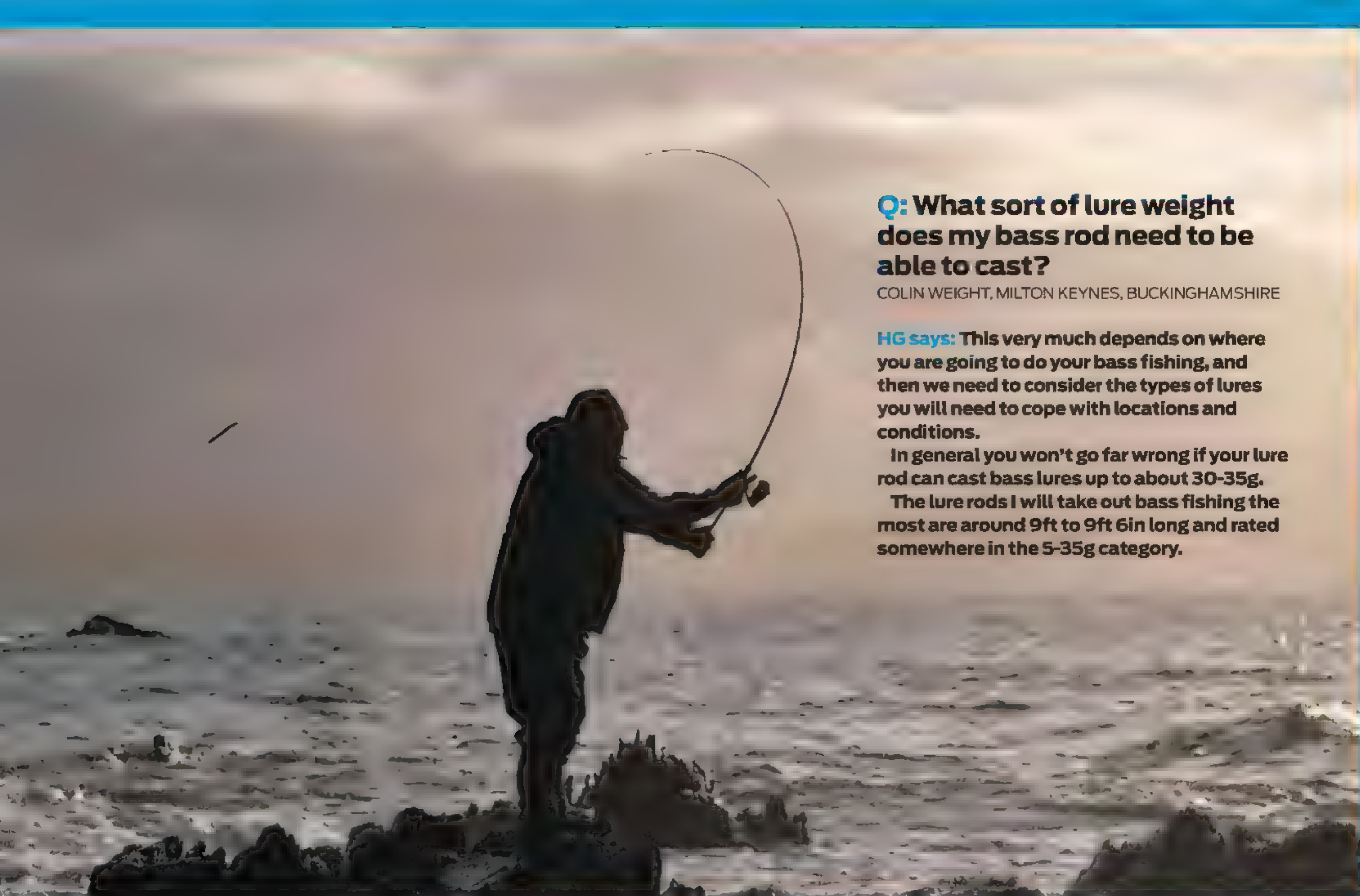
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CONNOR LOCKE, BY EMAIL

It also helps that these Z-Man soft plastics are incredibly tough and will withstand the teeth of a wrasse exceptionally well. Make sure, though, that you don't mix these Z-Man lures with any other patterns.

IAN WOLFENDEN, NORTHAMPTON, NORTHANTS



Q: What sort of lure weight does my bass rod need to be able to cast?

COLIN WEIGHT, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

HG says: This very much depends on where you are going to do your bass fishing, and then we need to consider the types of lures you will need to cope with locations and conditions.

In general you won't go far wrong if your lure rod can cast bass lures up to about 30-35g.

The lure rods I will take out bass fishing the most are around 9ft to 9ft 6in long and rated somewhere in the 5-35g category.

Q: Do you feel confident enough to go bass fishing in calm, sunny conditions?

DWAYNE SPRINGFIELD, BY EMAIL

HG says: I do and I don't. Give me flat calm conditions and, for the most part, you will not find me out on the open coast during daylight hours. I will either go night fishing for bass (and I far prefer calmer conditions for this), or else I look for a good run of current in an estuary.

I have had some very good bass fishing on calm and sunny days in estuaries on the last of the ebb tide, especially when the current is running. I fish like this a lot over in Ireland, for example.



Q: I have found a shallow reef and hope to catch some bass there. When should I fish it?

TREVOR PERKINS, ST ALBANS, HERTS

HG says: Where and when are the two eternal questions in fishing, and human logic often reckons on fish coming in over a shallow reef with the tide, and then disappearing as the tide goes out.

With bass especially, this is a 'rule' you need to ignore, for anglers find that a lot of shallow reefs fish better for bass when the tide is going out. The theory tends to be that predators are waiting for the smaller fish and prey species that are going to have to clear off the reef as the waters recede.

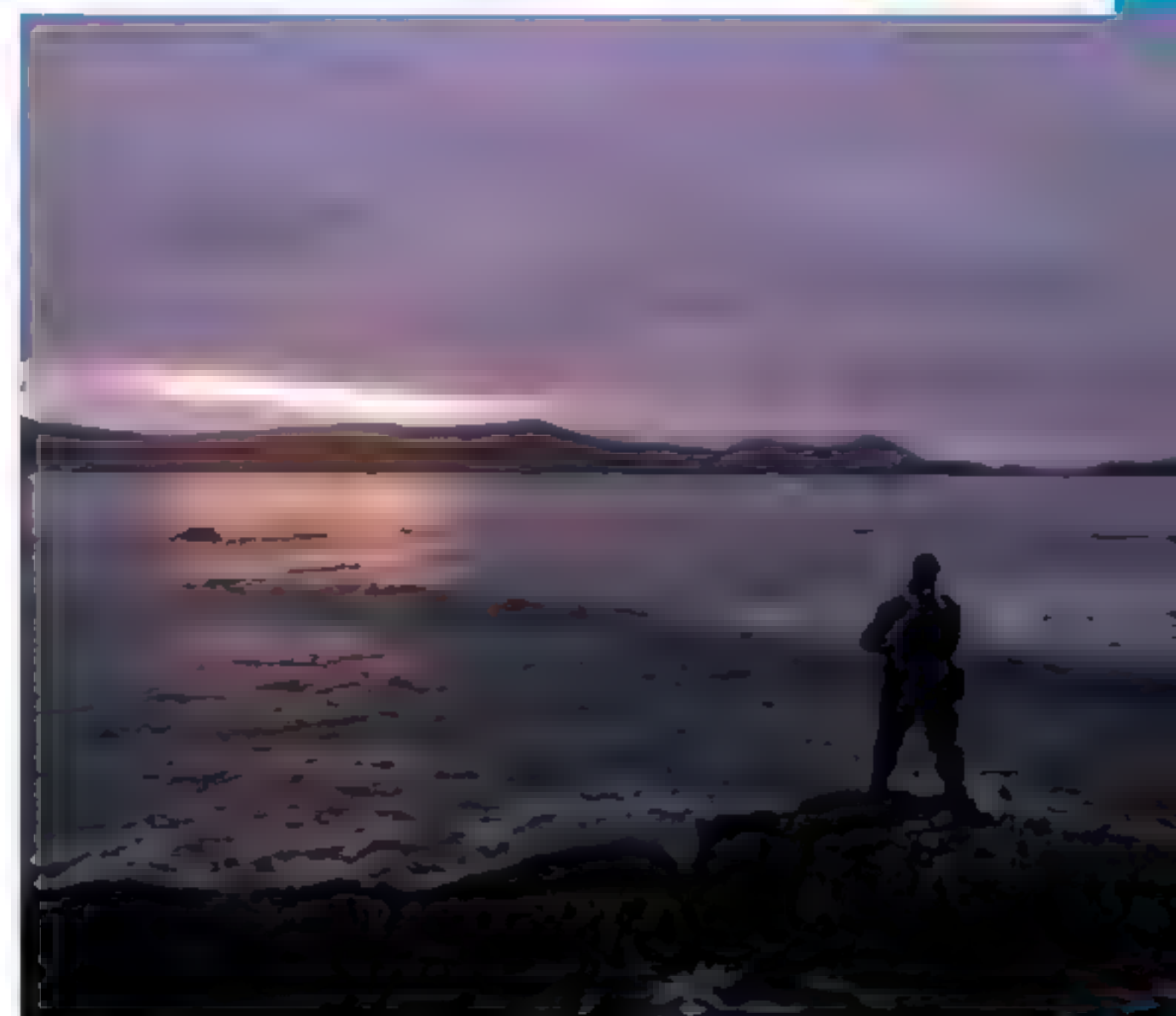
Q: Is it true that the middle of summer can sometimes be a tough time to catch bass?

FREDDY SANDERS, BY EMAIL

HG says: Midsummer is not my favourite time of year for bass fishing, but I put this down to proper summer weather and conditions often not exactly being ideal for shore-based bass fishing.

I spend a lot of time night fishing in the summer, or else I am praying for dull weather for the bass fishing, but at the same time also wanting a decent summer to go to the beach with my kids.

We are anglers and we want it all.



Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q: Any advice on preventing hooks on lures rusting after use in saltwater?

MIKE STELLINGMA, LIND

DL says: It is best to use hooks that have been plated with nickel plating or lined intended for use in saltwater. Regardless of what type of hooks you use, thoroughly wash your lures in fresh water after use and allow them to dry before storing. Nickel plating will also help prevent corrosion.



Q: Can you buy waterproof, hand-held VHF radios for use aboard small open boats?

JOHN HARRIS

BY EMAIL

DL says: Many manufacturers produce waterproof, hand-held VHF radios that are perfect for use aboard small boats and kayaks, and are often surprisingly affordable. For many years, I've used and recommended these radios.



Q: We occasionally see sunfish swimming around the boat during shark trips, but have never caught one. How do you target and catch sunfish?

TIM SUMMERFIELD, TENBY, WALES

DL says: I, too, have often seen sunfish but to date have never seen one caught fairly on rod and line.

I've heard of anglers who claim to have caught them and I've been told that small pieces of fish freelined or fished beneath a float can work.

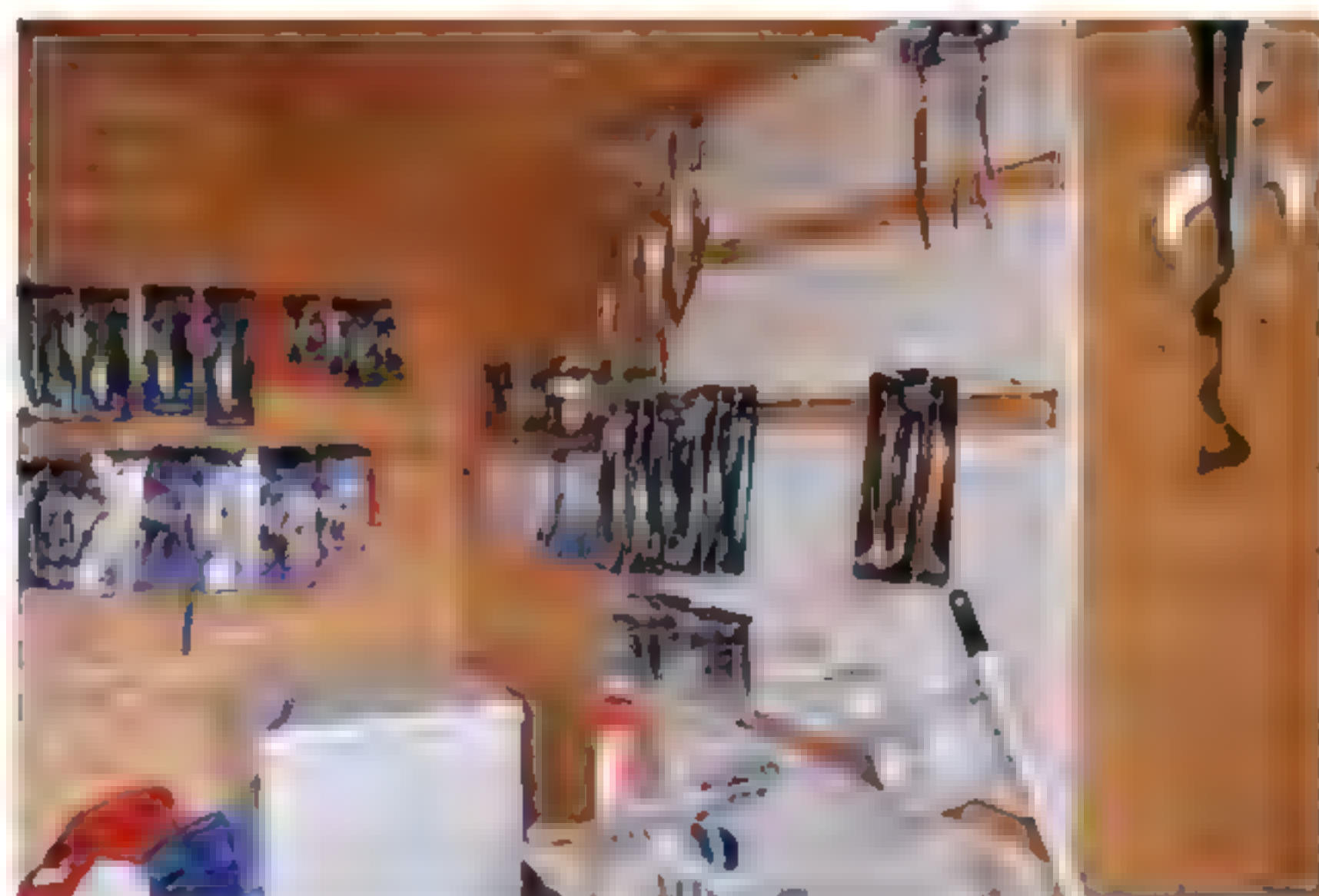
Personally, I am happy to just enjoy watching them.

Q: Can you buy fishing tackle in Norway?

ADRIAN JONES, BY EMAIL

DL says: Even the smallest towns will usually have a tackle shop, or at least a shop that sells fishing tackle.

Many of the fishing camps I have visited also supply all necessary items of tackle.



Q: Any advice on catching flatfish in Norway?

BRUCE SIMS, BY EMAIL

DL says: I always take a travel spinning rod and 5000-size fixed-spool reel on my fishing trips to Norway, primarily to use for coalfish, and these are also perfect for fishing for dabs and plaice. Small strips of fish, frozen prawns or worms, if available, will catch fish.



Q: How do you make chum groundbait?

DAN WITHERS, KIRBY, MERSEYSIDE

DL says: Chum, or rubby-dubby, is a mix of minced or mashed fish which can be either freshly caught or frozen, plus bran

and some type of fish oil. Many anglers save their old bait along with any fish offal, which is perfect, and freeze it.

The key is to create a 'stiff' mix that will gradually emit a strong trail of fish-attracting juices into the sea over a long period of time.

Q: Where I can learn more about safely handling small boats at sea.

DEE SMITH, RYE, EAST SUSSEX

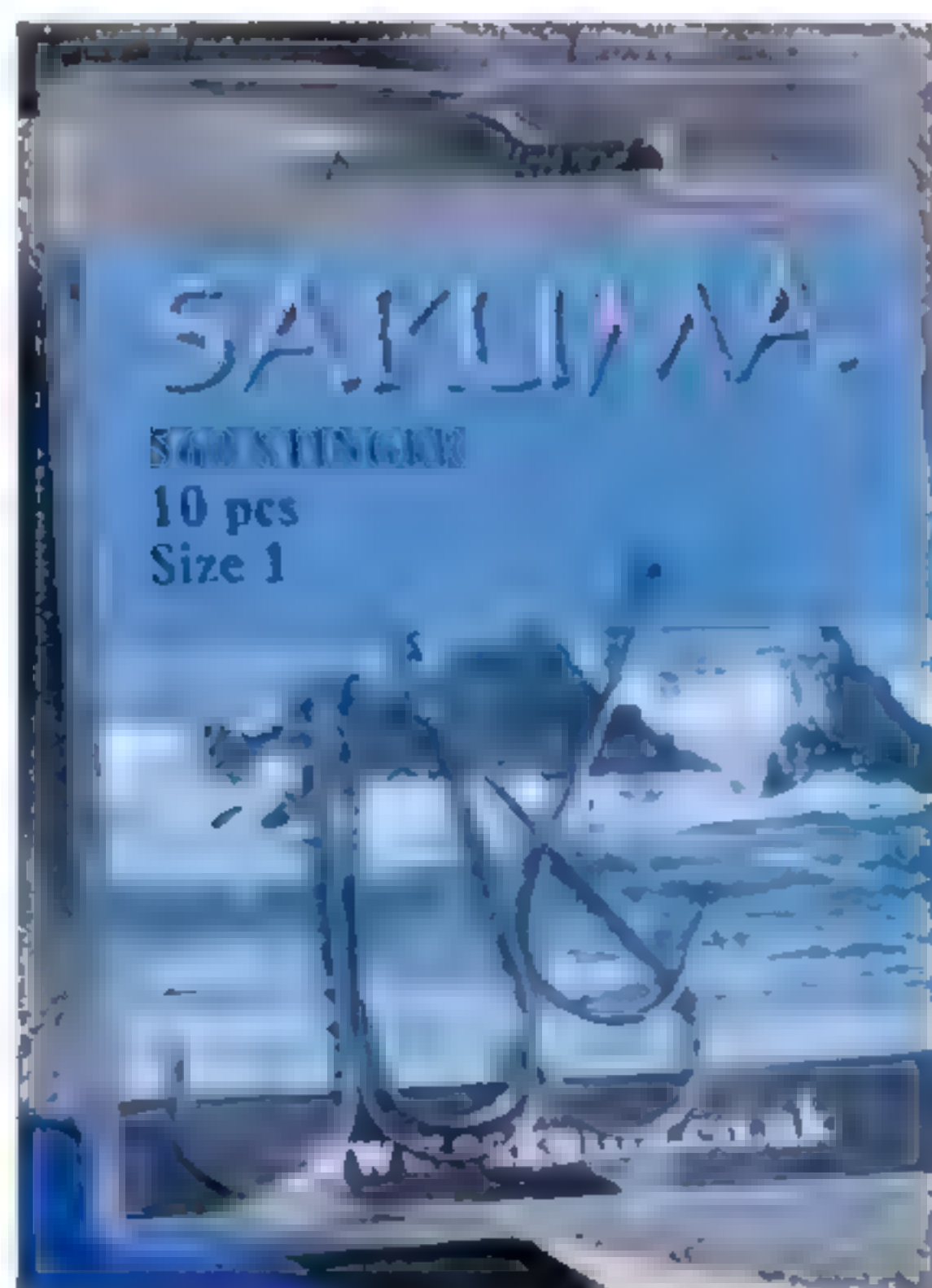
DL says: The RYA Level II Powerboat course is the perfect starting point. For more information on obtaining your nearest recognised training establishment go to www.rya.org.uk



Q: What are Aberdeen hooks, and why are these so popular with anglers targeting flatfish?

RORY BROOKS, BEDFORD, BEDS

DL says: Aberdeen hooks are generally made from fine wire and feature a long shank and a very sharp point. They are perfect for flatfish because they offer excellent bait presentation, while the long shank and fine wire facilitates the removal of hooks inside the fish's mouth.



Q: I am travelling to Costa Rica this winter, where I hope to catch my first roosterfish. I have been told that I should take some stick baits. What are they?

STEVE CUMMINGS, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE

DL says: Stick baits are cigar-shaped lures that rely on the angler imparting the necessary action with the rod tip. Stick baits are very effective when fished with a long, slow, sweeping action, especially for roosterfish, and many other species. I regard hot pink and chartreuse as essential colours.

Q: The scuppers on my boat drain into a plastic tube that discharges the water overboard. How can I prevent it getting blocked?

NAIL TERNER, DARTFORD, KENT

DL says: Stop it! Averting your scuppers from discharging into the sea is the only way to avoid a water guard. As shown.



Q&A

KAYAK

Q: I want to bait fish from my kayak. What anchor should I use?

DAVE MCKENNA, BOURNE, Lincs

MC says: The anchor depends on the ground you are fishing. When I started out, I was using a simple 10lb anchor. I found that it was not very effective. I then tried a 15lb anchor and found that it was better. I then tried a 20lb anchor and found that it was the best. I now use a 20lb anchor.



I have found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds.

And, if you are fishing in a rocky area, you should use a 20lb anchor. I have found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds.

Some people have said that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 20lb anchor is the best for most grounds.

Q: Can you give me some tips on how to catch and land thornback rays?

IAN DOWLING, BUCKINGHAM, Bucks

MC says: I used to catch thornback rays in the early 1980s. I found that the best way to catch them was by using a 10lb anchor. I found that a 10lb anchor was the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds.

There will be a lot of people who will say that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have found that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds.

Keep your fingers away from the hook. The hook is very sharp and can cause a lot of pain. I have found that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds. I have also found that a 10lb anchor is the best for most grounds.

Q: I only fish from my kayak in summer, but the beaches can be busy. I usually go somewhere quieter, but sometimes have no choice. How can I remain safe?

TREVOR LAWLESS, BOURNE, Lincs

MC says: Choose an area away from swimmers and paddlers when launching and

landing, especially when it's a bit rougher. If there isn't one, just ask people if they can give you a little space while you pass through.

It's vital that you can control your kayak sufficiently well in order not to injure anybody. If it is rough, you might need to consider jumping in and pulling it to shore rather than being a surf hero.

Both on the way out and back, make sure that rods are stowed safely, no rigs flapping around. Do not display loads of dead fish.



Q: I've seen kayaks with crates on the back. What type should I choose?

NIGEL SHORE, PERTH, SCOTLAND

MC says: I've never understood the need for a crate. Apart from never wanting to carry that much stuff out on the water, they are an easy way to lose everything if you capsize or catch the wind. They also require you to reach behind you, over the seat, between the rods to fetch anything, with the attendant stability issues.

I have sufficient tackle stowed and easily accessible in my PFD, with weights kept in

my bait bag (or a small tub filled with lures in summer).

My anchor and reel are stowed in the footwells ready for

use, my trolley in the front hatch, and that's it generally. If I'm fishing a competition and decide to take more kit, then a deck bag gets fitted, but other than that it's clutter and requires extra energy.



Q: I would like to enter some of the kayak competitions, but I don't know if there's much point because I'm quite new to kayak fishing. Any tips?

BRIAN RAWLINSON, BY EMAIL

MC says: Get a coolbox of beer and food, a tent and a barbecue. Go to the campsite, make loads of new friends (just wade in to whatever group takes your fancy), eat, drink, be merry and enjoy these kayak events as a social weekend.

Kayak fishing competitions in the UK have always been about having a get-together, springing from the various meets put on by kayak forum members in the early days.

Yes, you can fish competitively or you can float around with your fingers crossed because some of the events have random

prizes. If you don't stick a hook in the water, you can't win.

Other than that, do your research on the venue, bait, ground types and best tactics for the particular species.

Always find out about the competition rules. I like species hunts, and generally use baited sabiki lures on the bottom at anchor and on the drift as my main tactic.



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Join us at Portland Marina for a week of water-based fun, raising money for Surfers Against Sewage. There'll be new experiences and plenty of chances to have a go, on and offshore. With events from marine art to paddle sports and fishing, there's something for everyone.

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CHEETAH



www.cheetahmarine.co.uk

FIRST LOOK

Paul Fenech samples the latest gear to hit the tackle shops



TEAM VASS 175 UNLINED SUMMER WATERPROOF SMOCK EDITION 4 RRP: £89.95

The popular Vass waterproof garments have recently been updated and are perfect for those summer sessions when the weather decides to take a turn for the worse. Made from the new Vass-Tex 176 material, top features include being lightweight, waterproof, windproof, breathable and all-directional stretch for enhanced comfort. There's even an optional stow-sack for storage costing £4.99. Available in sizes: S-XXXL.

- Front external hand pockets
- Re-designed hood shape and clear peak
- Machine washable without the need to re-proof the outer layer
- Adjustable lower hem with elastic and toggle

■ Available from all Vass stockists, web: www.vass-tex.com



Has front external hand pockets

Made from Vass-Tex 176 material

Re-designed hood shape and clear peak



ICON FXD 70 AND 80 FIXED-SPOOL REEL

RRP: £99.99

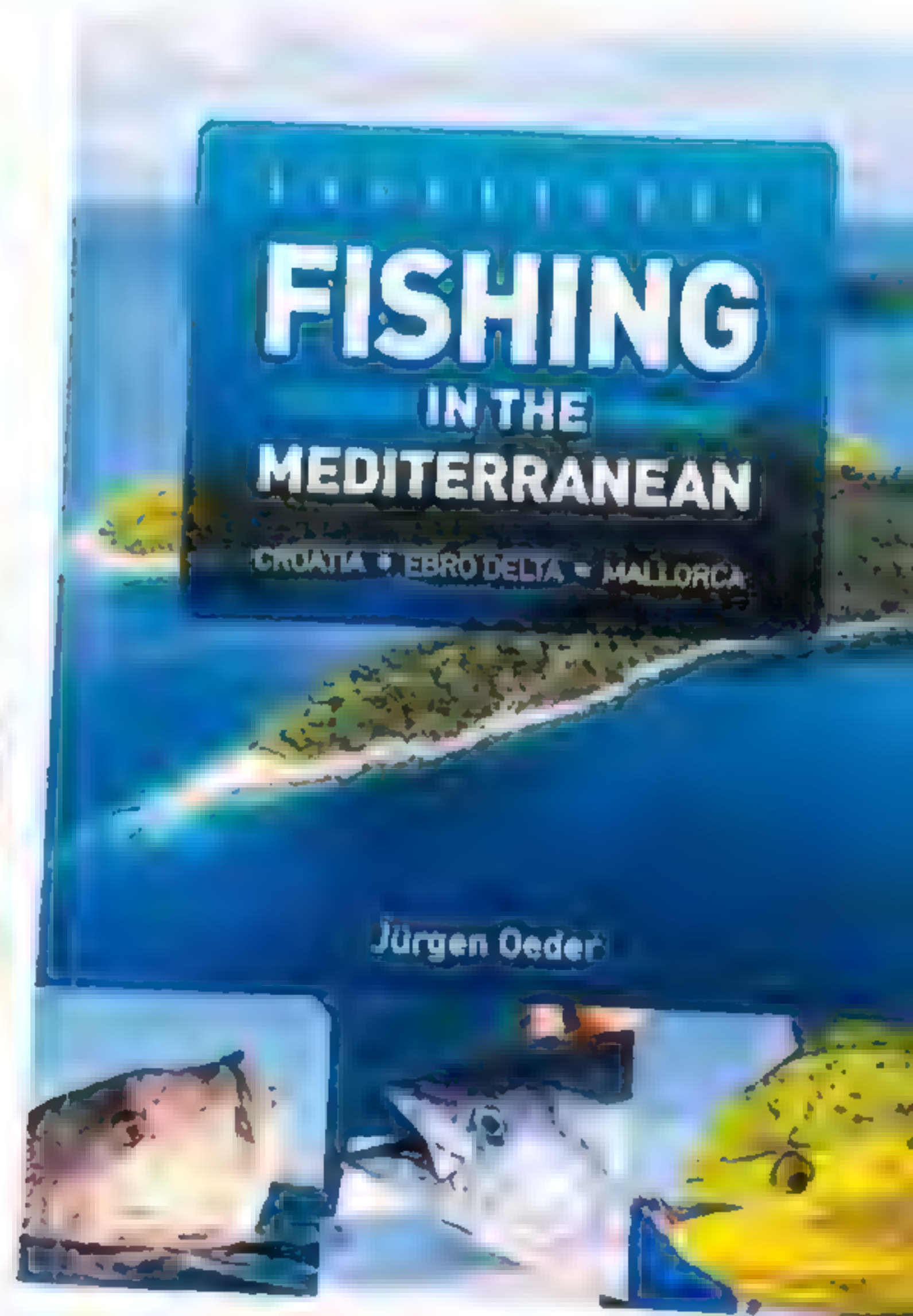
The new Icon FXD surf fixed-spool reels are both designed to offer long-range casting capabilities with either mono or braid. Shallow and deep aluminium spools are available, and both are tapered. Match this with the ultra-slow oscillation system, you can also expect to have a perfect line lay. Other features include 11 bearings, a gear ratio of 4.9:1, titanium coated line roller and a CNC handle with EVA grip.

■ For more info, visit: www.iconfishing.co.uk

RAPALA LURES PRICES FROM £14

There's a whole new range of Rapala lures coming back on to the scene, including patterns such as X-Rap Magnum Xtreme, X-Rap Twitchin Mullet, X-Rap Long Cast Shallow and huge selection of top-water poppers. Available in both treble or single-hook patterns, these are the real deal when it comes to lure fishing for predators.

■ For your nearest Rapala stockist, visit: www.normarkuk.com



SUCCESSFUL FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

PRICE: £20

Top angler Jürgen Oeder explains all the best methods for fishing in the Mediterranean. Lures and rig construction are explained, as well as the best techniques to use.

In addition to useful information and vital tips, 45 species of fish are also named and described in detail. If you're planning a fishing holiday anywhere in the Mediterranean, this could be just what you need.

■ For more info, visit: www.juergen-oeder.com



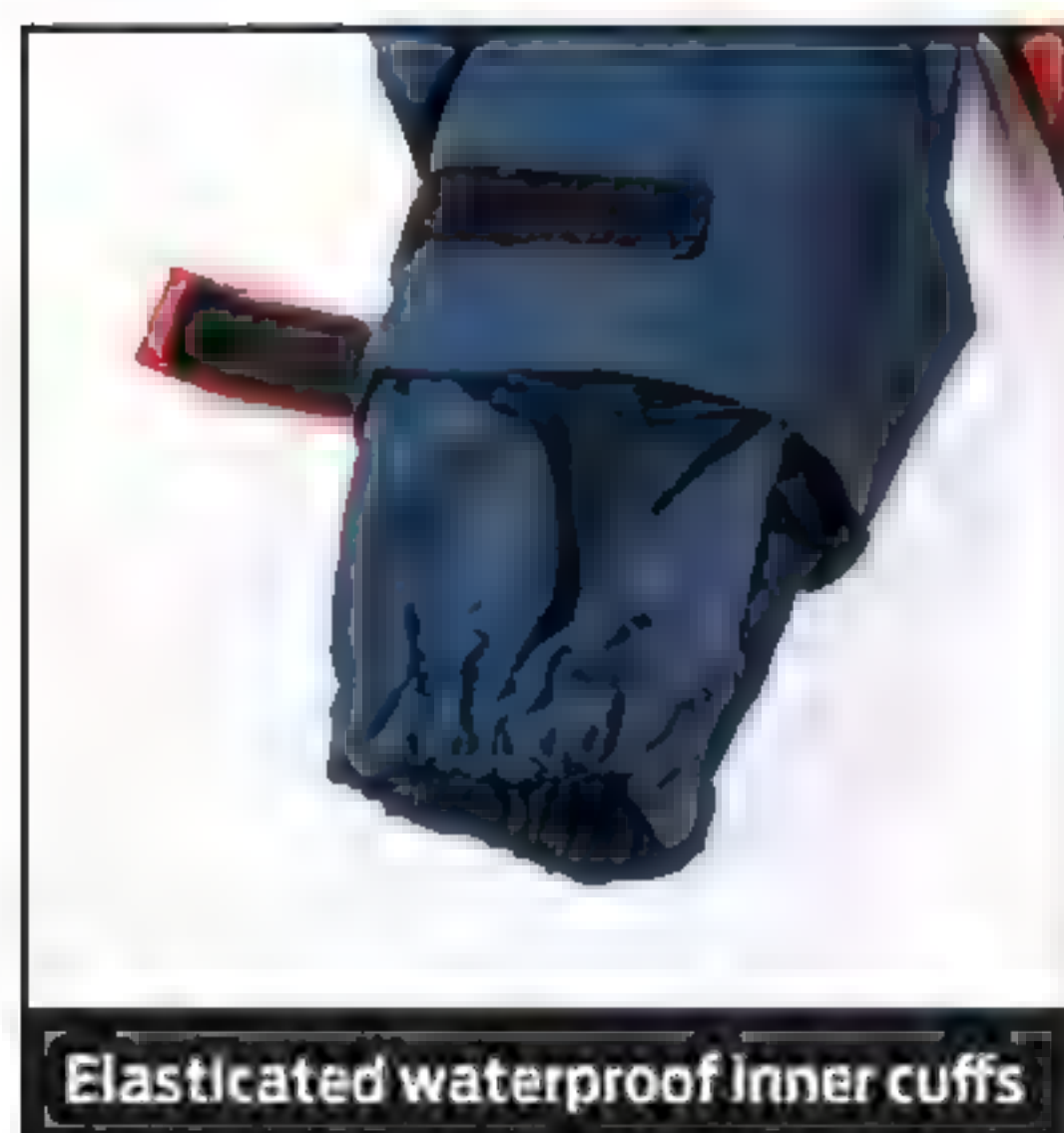
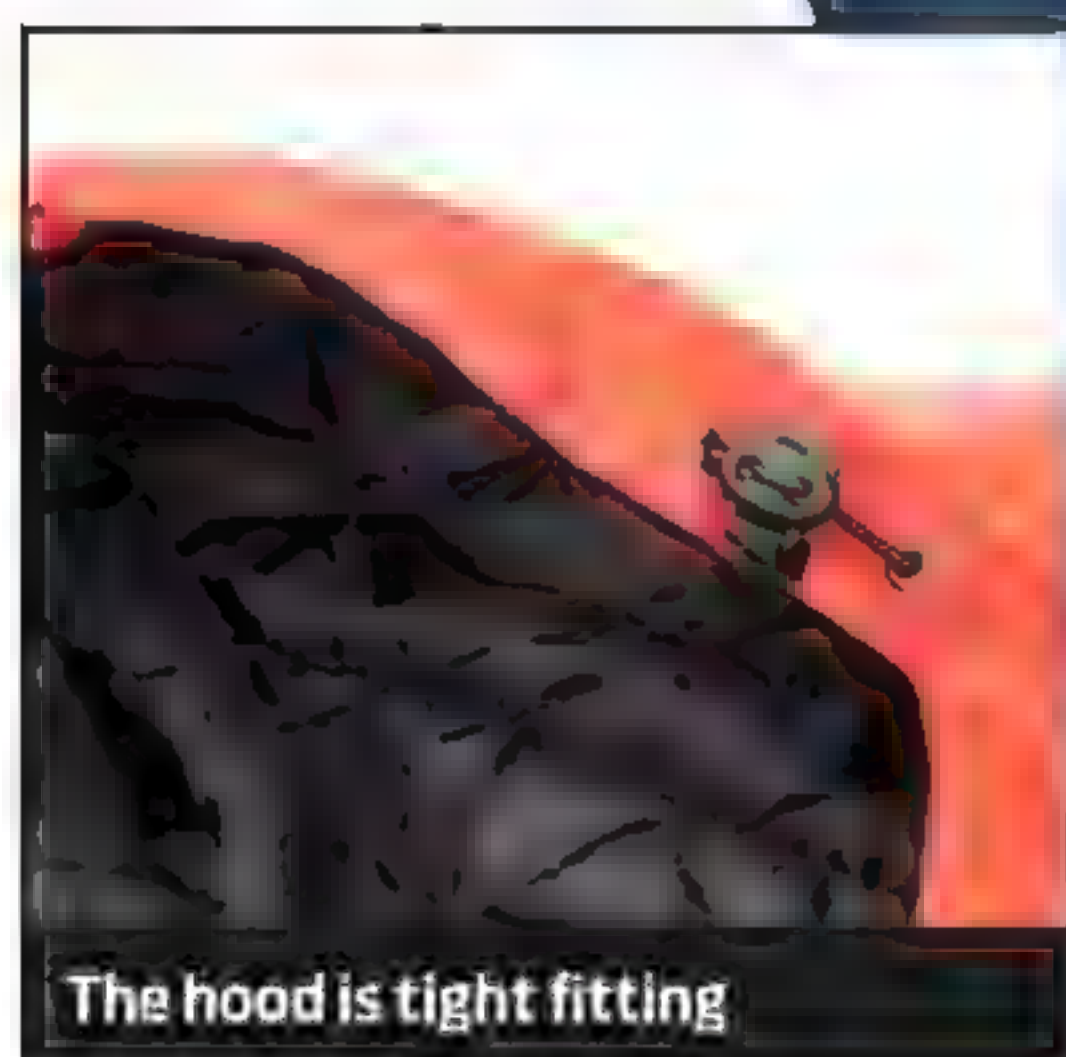
2019 TITAN EXEAT BREATHABLE WATERPROOF SMOCK

INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF £99.99 (RRP: £149.99)

It was Titan's 25th anniversary back in 2018, and to celebrate, the company has launched a brand new and improved classic design waterproof smock. Incorporating new style features, it's been manufactured with a new and improved British EXEAT fabric.

Other top features include EXEAT fabric seams taped and hot air sealed, a tight-fitting hood that also protects the neck, Velcro-adjustable cuffs incorporating waterproof elasticated inner cuffs, two very large hand warmer pockets, plus a large breast pocket with a concealed pouch for mobile phone storage, and thermal, breathable quilt lining for total comfort and warmth. Available in colours of red body and navy arms, or navy body and red arms. Sizes: M-XXXL

■ For more info or to locate a stockist, visit: www.titan.fishing





Full details and prices on request, or on our website/plus 'Buy on line'. We also take cards by telephone. Please make cheques or Postal Orders made payable to **INTEREX INTERNATIONAL LTD**



Search 'Craig Hall Bluefin Tuna Tagging BBC One Show' on YouTube to see our channel.

Predators beware!

The new Hart Bloody Taktik spinning rod is just the job for any lure session...

HART BLOODY TAKTIK 10-40G SPINNING ROD RRP: £149.99

A serious lure angler will tell you that a decent spinning rod should possess enough power to fire out a lure, but have just enough finesse and delicacy to work it.

It also needs to be lightweight – after all, you'll be holding it throughout a long session. A heavyweight outfit soon makes your trip a tiring affair and, to be honest, not much fun.

The latest spinning rod from Hart is the Bloody Taktik. It's a two-piece outfit with a rating of 10-40g and has loads of power. The rating is fantastic simply because it handles tiny lures when needed, but easily copes when you need to increase the artillery. It also weighs a satisfying and ultra-light 170g.

Cosmetically, it's a real stunner. Finished in a dazzling white, it's lined with Fuji Alconite rings plus a Fuji screw-winch reel seat. It boasts quality as well as great design.

The power begins from the butt and gradually runs through the middle until eventually culminating at an extremely sensitive tip. The real pleasure is certainly highlighted when working a lure. The fact a sensitive tip allows you to feel everything going on at the business end is a real plus. This will also help you to judge exactly when a strike is likely to happen.

Also, the rod comes with its very own partitioned, padded rod bag for extra protection during transit. All in all, it's a quality piece of kit that will please any serious lure angler.

■ Available in the UK through all Tronixpro stockists. Web: www.hart-fishing.com/en

Guides are Fuji Alconite



The Fuji reel seat



It's a quality piece of kit





TECH SPEC

- MODEL: Hart Bloody Taktik
- SECTIONS: Two equal
- LENGTH: 9ft
- GUIDES: Fuji Alconite
- REEL SEAT: Fuji screw-winch
- RATING: 10-40g
- WEIGHT: 170g
- BAG: Yes
- PRICE: £149.99

Vercelli

ENYGMA

TEKNIKA

The ENYGMA TEKNIKA has been created for anglers who are looking for a high quality, technologically advanced surfcasting rod with competition pedigree.

- Inverted stripper guide
- FUJI LC Low Rider and KT Alconite guides
- SPECIALIST SENSITIP - Solid fibres spliced hybrid tip
- FUJI DPS screw-lock reel seat with cushioned hood
- 100% CARBON

FUJI and KT ALCONITE® are registered brands of Fuji Industrial Co. Ltd Japan

Leaning into another
double-figure
smoothhound with the
12/20-class rod



Go afloat with Aphex

With four boat rods now added to its range, Tronixpro's Mike Thrussell Junior details this colourful new quartet



ON THE BACK OF THE success of its shore rods, it was only a matter of time before Tronixpro launched a dedicated range for boat anglers. Under the Aphex brand come four boat rods designed to cater for almost anything the boat angler is likely to encounter in the UK.

All four rods are built using 24T carbon, which produces a lightweight blank. To maintain a consistent, smooth power curve throughout, they are constructed in a short butt with long tip configuration, helping give optimum feedback when feeling for bites and playing fish.

Each butt section has a full EVA handle and foregrip to provide plenty of comfort and added bulk when tucking the rod under your arm, and is fitted with a Fuji DPS reel seat. Completing the rest of the blank is a full set of Fuji O guides.

These lightweight rings feature a deep-pressed frame that, unlike conventional frames, wrap around a hardened aluminium oxide liner. This makes it difficult for the inner liner to pop out and provides a

robust, durable, lightweight guide.

Cosmetic-wise, the three standard boat rods feature a colour-coding system. Each class of downtime blank has a different logo box colour, making it easily identifiable. For anglers like me, who use different blanks during a session, all of which have the same type of reel on them, this is a useful addition for quick identification. It also looks great and is a nice break from the conventional black/carbon/single colour use.

Each blank is black, with black whippings and accents that match the logo box. A white, bite identification section is located between the third intermediate and tip ring. ▶

8/15LB-CLASS BOAT

My favourite model is also the lightest in the range (8/15lb, coded orange) and costs £77.99. It has a lovely action, ideal for species hunters.

The sensitive tips allows you to feel what kind of ground is being fishing over and to differentiate the smallest of bites. That's ideal for situations where you're fishing for wrasse, sea scorpions, blennies, gobies and other smaller fish. It also makes an ideal rod for drifting over sand targeting dabs and plaice.

The hardened EVA foam provides ample feedback through the blank. It's no slouch either, it has plenty of backbone if a decent fish comes along, landing some spirited smoothhounds into double figures for me with no issues. This is a versatile tool and my default scratching/species hunting rod.

12/20LB-CLASS BOAT

This was the first rod in the selection I used, its all-round 12/20lb-class (coded red) likely to make it the most popular rod. If you only want to buy one rod (it costs £77.99), then this is the one.

When I'm more than likely to catch bigger fish, this is the rod I'd choose. It has bags of power in the butt section to subdue large fish like tope, big rays and even small blue sharks.

On a recent smoothhound trip, this was the first rod I used, although I usually fish lighter for these species, but knowing there was a chance of a double-figure hound, this was the ideal opportunity to give the rod a go.

As luck would have it, my first drop with the 12/20lb Apex resulted in a smoothhound of 17lb 8oz. The fight was a absolute delight, with the rod taking up the runs and lunges smoothly, the power in the butt giving me plenty of confidence to lean into the fish and play it hard to the surface.

I also had opportunities to fish on the drift later on, catching plenty of wrasse and pollack, and finding the tip sensitive enough so it's not a chore to use when searching out smaller fish. Plenty of feedback was transmitted through the blank, no matter the size of fish.



Tough Fuji O Rings throughout



This 17lb 8oz smoothhound was caught on the 12/20-class

20/30LB-CLASS BOAT

The rod I've used the least so far from the range is the 20/30 (coded green), designed for deep water, strong tides and wreck fishing for bigger species such as conger eels. It feels a bit of beast compared to the other models.

Designed to the same specifications as the other rods and priced at £81.99, it has plenty of uses in UK and Irish fishing, as well as abroad too.

From the few times I've used one, I can say with certainty that despite the short tip, long butt configuration, it will be coming to Norway with me. It will have bags of power to fight big cod and halibut with no worries.

Here in the UK, it would be an ideal rod for blue shark fishing, and when fishing for bigger tope and rays. Anglers who fish in strong tide ranges, such as the Bristol Channel, when fishing with large amounts of lead weight will like this rod.

APHEX UPTIDE

The final rod in the range is designed for casting baits away from an anchored boat, especially in bigger tides and flowing water in areas such as the Bristol Channel, Thames Estuary and the Mersey.

It has plenty of power in the butt and mid-section to cast big baits for cod and bass away from the boat.

It also retains plenty of sensitivity for detecting bites. This sensitivity can also be handy when using the rod as a conventional, longer downtide rod too, being perfect for detecting bites from smaller species, a great general drifting rod, especially across sand when you may encounter a big turbot or ray.

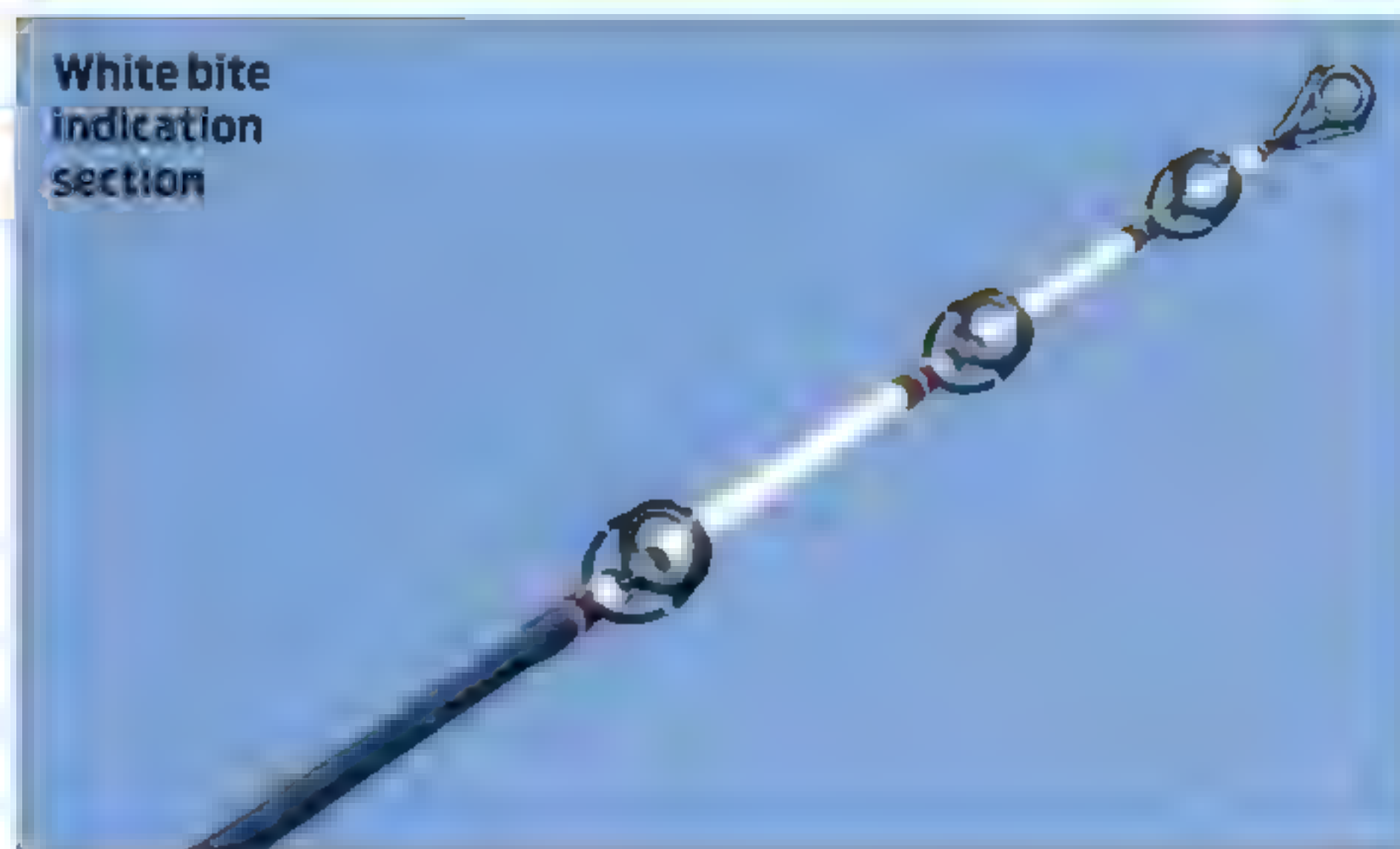
With conventional boat rods much longer, many boat anglers have turned their backs on uptide rods, but the unique, sporting action of this blank, costing £88.99, might make you think again. ■

TECH SPEC

MODEL	LENGTH	SECTIONS	PRICE
Aphex Boat 8/15lb-class	8ft	2 sections	£77.99
Aphex Boat 12/20lb-class	8ft	2 sections	£77.99
Aphex Boat 20/30lb-class	8ft	2 sections	£81.99
Aphex Uptide (4-10oz)	9ft 6in	2 sections	£88.99



Fuji DPS Reel Seat secures the reel to the rod



White bite indication section

BOAT STORE

Items for anglers going afloat

GARMIN BLUECHART G3

The new Garmin BlueChart g3 and BlueChart g3 Vision are a new line of cartography products for coastal and inland boating that blend the best of both Garmin and Navionics content together for the first time to deliver what is described as unparalleled coverage and detail.

These charts both offer Auto Guidance¹, a technology that instantly searches through relevant charts to create a suggested route based upon the user's desired depth and overhead clearance.

This new cartography brings superb detail and convenience to users with navigational aids, spot soundings, depth contours, tides and currents, and detailed harbours and marinas. It offers

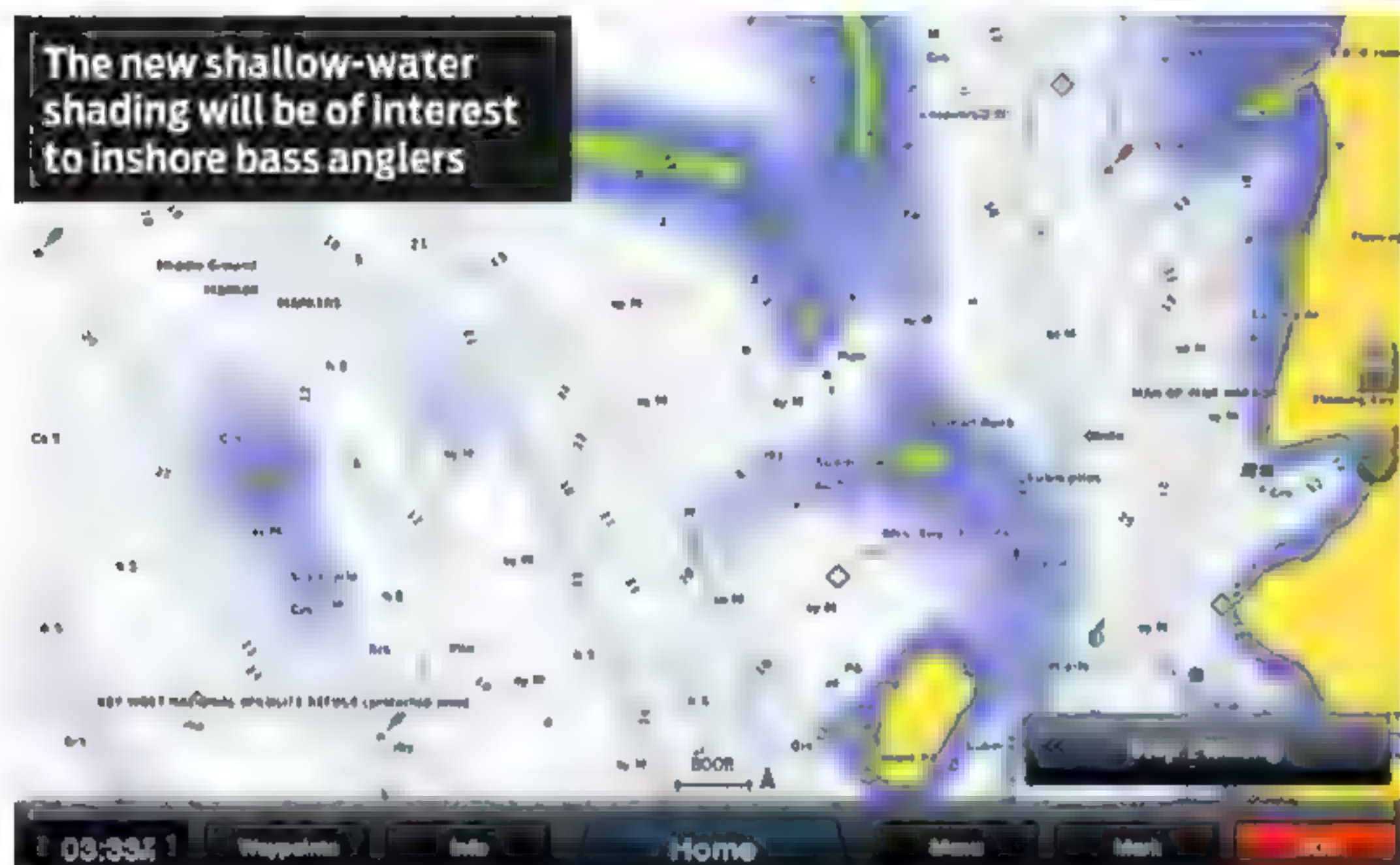
seamless chart presentation with up to one-foot fishing contours that provide a more accurate depiction of bottom structure for improved fishing charts and enhanced detail in marinas and port plans.

Garmin was the first to introduce Auto Guidance, and now this simple marine auto-navigation technology is included with all Garmin g3 accessory cards—all at no additional cost.

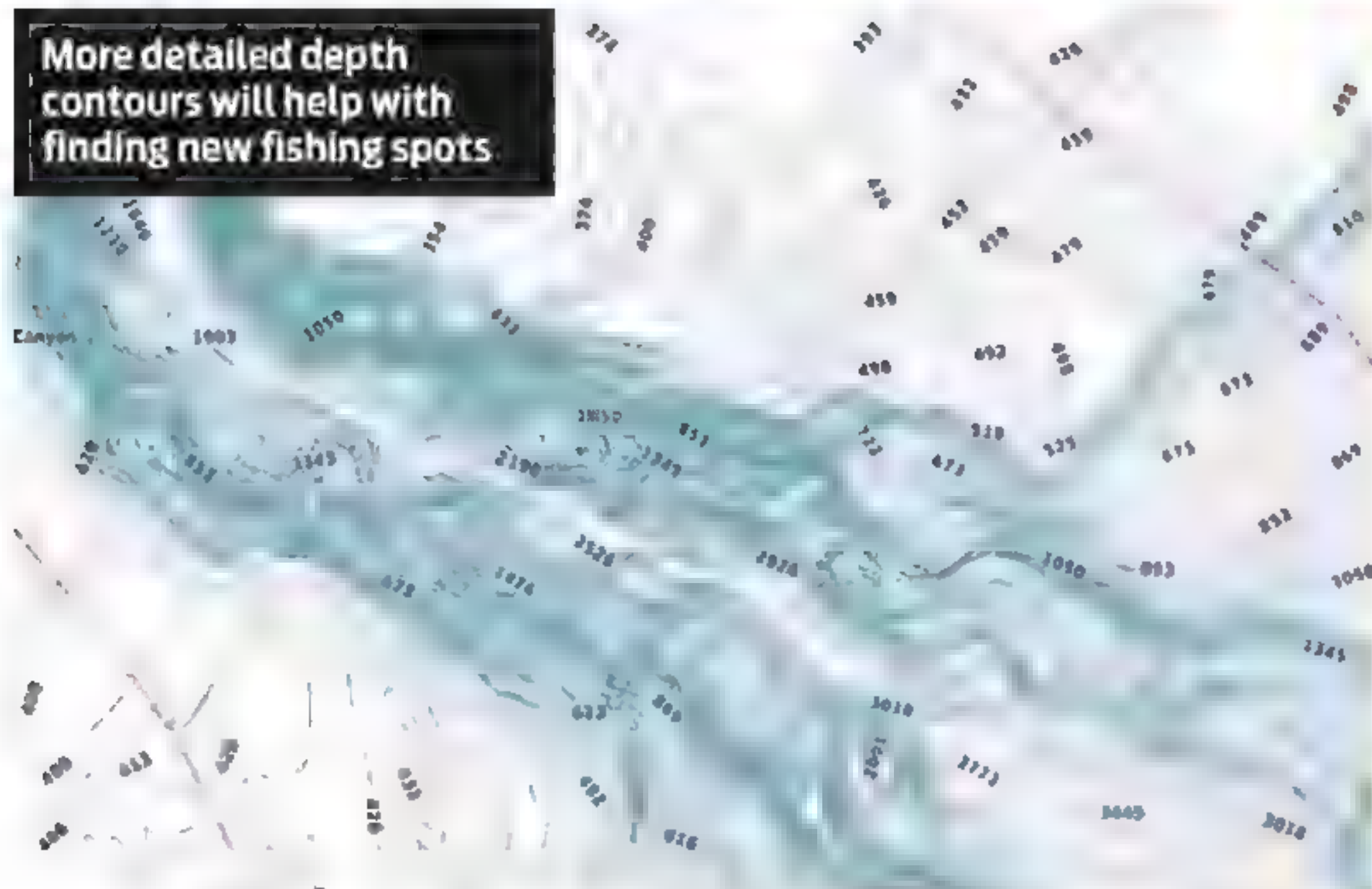
The BlueChart g3 Vision is the top of the range, packed with features such as depth range shading, shallow-water shading, hi-res satellite imagery, Fish Eye view and MarinerEye view sounder options.

■ For more details, visit: www.garmin.com

The new shallow-water shading will be of interest to inshore bass anglers



More detailed depth contours will help with finding new fishing spots



If you want the ultimate in boat safety lifejackets, the Vito is top of the list

SPINLOCK VITO DECKVEST

The pioneering Deckvest Vito lifejacket from Spinlock grabbed the headlines when it won the DAME Design Award, the world's most significant marine equipment competition.

After 45,000 miles of testing in the world's toughest ocean race, Spinlock has launched this new lifejacket with remarkable features. Developed from the custom lifejacket harness created for all the elite teams in the Volvo Ocean Race, the Vito includes a harness quick-release system (HRS), an industry first.

The Vito also offers all the other innovative features, cutting edge technology and advanced materials. Lightweight and compact, the Vito boasts the ultimate in comfort and tailored fit. Easy to adjust to size, its structured shape allows it to be put on quickly and easily, without tangling, even in the dark with cold and wet hands. It costs from £250.

For more details, visit: www.spinlock.co.uk

VITO FEATURES

- Striking design finish in durable ripstop fabric
- 170N buoyancy with hydrostatic automatic inflator
- Structured fit with simple to adjust buckles
- Course and fine tune adjustment fits lifejacket to body size
- Fine tune adjust each time for layers
- Harness-release system
- Added protection in high-impact areas
- Structured sprayhood with large window and expanded visibility
- Pylon 360 lifejacket light fitted
- Lume-On bladder illumination lights fitted
- 40mm leg strap with stowage
- Exclusive extra small CO₂ cylinder to reduce bulk



Four anglers reveal the latest item of tackle they bought and why...



- NAME: Andy Collings
- HOME: Weymouth, Dorset
- LATEST BUY: Sakuma 550 Stinger hooks, size 1
- PRICE: £2 per pack of 10

Andy says: "Sakuma Stinger hooks are an Aberdeen pattern with an anti-corrosive black nickel finish. They feature a long shank and are manufactured out of medium gauge wire and are incredibly sharp. Perfect for targeting many species, especially flatfish, and are my first choice when drifting for plaice."

- NAME: Craig Buy
- HOME: Colchester, Essex
- LATEST BUY: Black Mamba gloves
- PRICE: £11.99 per box of 10

Craig says: "These have saved my fishing because my fingers would often swell up and bleed. I've tried other gloves, but my hookpoints would tear them. These do not tear and are extremely strong. They're actually designed for industrial use because standard disposable gloves are useless. They also have a textured surface that gives excellent grip, but also provides sensitivity for delicate fishing tasks."





- NAME: Colin Penny
- HOME: Weymouth, Dorset
- LATEST BUY: Red Gill Evolution lures
- PRICE: £7.99 per pack of three

Colin, who skips Flamer IV, says: "Currently, my crews are finding these, in Bubblegum Pink colour, are

incredibly effective. They have a superb fish-catching action and are incredibly durable and don't fall apart after a couple of hook-ups. The extra-strong upwards facing weighted hook is super-sharp, while allowing the angler to work the lure closer to the seabed without becoming snagged."



- NAME: Greg Bate
- HOME: Weymouth, Dorset
- LATEST BUY: Berkley Trilene Fluorocarbon
- PRICE: £16.99 per 200-yard spool

Greg says: "This line is extremely abrasion resistant with a high knot strength. I use it particularly for snoods when fishing on the drift for plaice. I also use it for lure fishing over reefs and wrecks for pollack. It's especially good for targeting bass in shallow and clear water."



Super six

Check out the new Super Kenzaki Boat rods from Daiwa

DAIWA SUPER KENZAKI BOAT RODS RRP: £150

OVER THE YEARS THE KENZAKI rods have undertaken slight build tweaks and cosmetic changes, but the two-equal-section principle has remained constant. This new line-up features four rods at 7ft long, plus two 8ft models.

In the previous Sea Angler (issue 572) I took a look at the new Super Kenzaki fixed-spool rods and mentioned that the original Super Kenzaki rods were the first equal

length, two-section boat rods that I can recall.

To kick off the 7ft range, there's a 6/12lb-class rod weighing just 226g. It is ideal for light-tackle work inshore for species like plaice, bream, wrasse and bass. Next up is the 12/20lb blank, weighing 230g, which is the option I would choose for my UK general downtiding. You'll have loads of fun with smoothhounds, big bass and turbot, or wrecking for pollack and cod with this.

Then there's a 20/30lb-class model, which is the one I had sent to me for review. This blank still has a relatively soft tip for its class rating, but further down the rod you'll find immense reserves of power. It's perfect for

downtiding in deeper water where heavier lead weights are required. Species-wise, take a look at this rod if you're targeting big tope, huge blonde rays in fast tides, winter cod and even large conger eels. I'd also quite happily trust this blank when targeting blue sharks – it'll give you plenty of sport, and there's enough grunt to heave a big shark back to the boat when required.

Last but not least is the famed 30/50lb-class rod, which has been responsible for some truly mammoth fish catches over the years. This rod weighs in at 260g and has everything you need to tackle big wreck eels, huge skate and sharks. All the rods in the 7ft range are

FEATURES

- Powerful carbon blank
- V-Joint
- EVA fore and rear grip
- Fuji 'O' ring guides
- Fuji DPS reel seat
- Fuji GRC butt cap



You'll find immense power further down the rod



There are 10 Fuji 'O' ring guides on each blank



All the rods have Fuji DPS reel seats



Left: It's very easy to assemble the two halves and twist to get the eyes lined up

really light, so they're perfect for holding and fishing with all day long.

When it comes to the new 8ft models there are two line classes available – 6/15lb and 15/25lb. These rods are ideal for kayak anglers, thanks to their extra length. It's a common misconception that kayakers require shorter rods. When you're hooked up to a lively bass or a tope from a kayak, you need to be able to move the rod all the way around the bow if the fish makes a sudden run under the yak.

Both of these 8ft versions have slightly softer tip sections, as you would expect. I think they'll be quite appealing to those who enjoy wreck and reef fishing with lures for bass, pollack and cod. They'll also both be great for drift fishing and general downtime work.

QUALITY FITTINGS

As with all Daiwa rods the build quality is nothing short of superb. This, coupled with the quality fittings, provides exceptional value for money. Because the rods are equal-length sections they lend themselves to a 'push-in' style joint, which makes it very easy to assemble the two halves and twist to get the eyes lined up correctly.

I really love the subtle 'unground' carbon finish with the blue and silver graphics; it's

a welcome change from the old plain black blanks. I really like the oversized EVA foregrips too. They're slightly formed to give a rounded feel to them, and they sit really well in the palm of your hand. Daiwa never scrimps and saves on fittings, using only the best Fuji products on its rods. All these FS models feature Fuji 'O' ring guides – 10 on each blank, including the tip. All the reel seats are Fuji DPS, and the rather innovative Fuji GRC butt caps complete the Fuji fittings used in the range. These butt caps have a gimbal fitting cut into them in such a way as not to be uncomfortable when jamming the butt into your groin for leverage.

I really like them, and they do away with the need for those nasty 'push-on' butt caps that we all end up losing after a couple of trips afloat.

DAVE'S VERDICT

Hats off to Daiwa for revamping and extending the Kenzaki range.

These rods will stand the test of time and will appeal to just about every boat angler in the country.

There really is something for everyone. All the rods in the new downtime range are priced at £150 and come supplied in a heavy-duty, two-section nylon rod bag.

■ For more details on the boat rods and others in the new Super Kenzaki range, visit: www.daiwasports.co.uk

Get this superb lure outfit for just £89.99!

Take advantage of this superb spinning package...

SUMMER is finally here, and that fact should have sparked your urge to go lure fishing. So, how about treating yourself to a new set-up?

This month's offer is an absolute cracker, combining a rod, reel, braid and a selection of lures to get you on your way.

First up is the Shakespeare Agility four-piece spinning rod. Boasting a fast action with a light tip, plus a classy cork handle, it's just the job for whacking those lures into the strike zone.

It's 11ft in length when assembled, has a rating of 20-40g and comes supplied in its own protective tube. It's perfect for travelling anglers and can be easily stowed away in the boot of a vehicle.

Accompanying the rod is a Daiwa Sweepfire E 5000 fixed-spool reel. It features a smooth front drag system, aluminium spool, ABS,

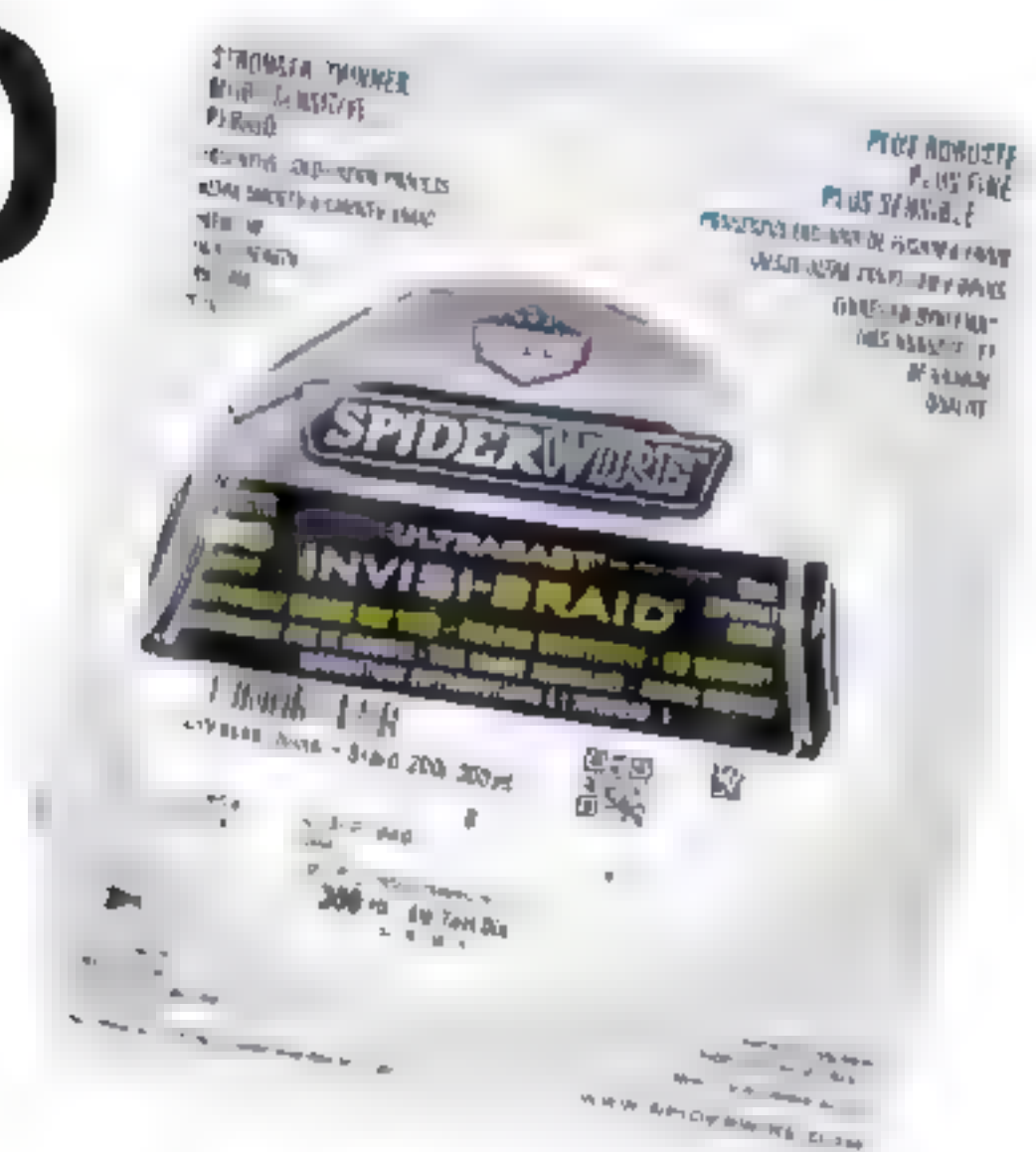
folding handle and a graphite rotor and body – perfect for any lure session.

Also in the package is a 300-yard spool of 20lb Spiderwire Ultracast Invisi-Braid. When you need to feel every little knock, this will certainly register quickly and directly to your rod or fingertips.

Rounding off the deal is a selection of three Normura X-Minnow lures. They're all 14cm, 44g floating lures and patterns of Fire Tiger, Multi Shiner and Natural Green. Work them properly and they will dance, swim and dive, making them irresistible to any predator lurking under cover, ready to strike.

Normally, this lot would set you back £163.94 in the shops, but it can be yours today for just £89.99 – putting a cool £73.95 back into your pocket in a deal you cannot afford to miss.

Ordering couldn't be easier – we've created three easy ways (below). Give the helpful staff at the Fishing Megastore a call, place your order, leave the rest to them and kick your summer holidays off in style.



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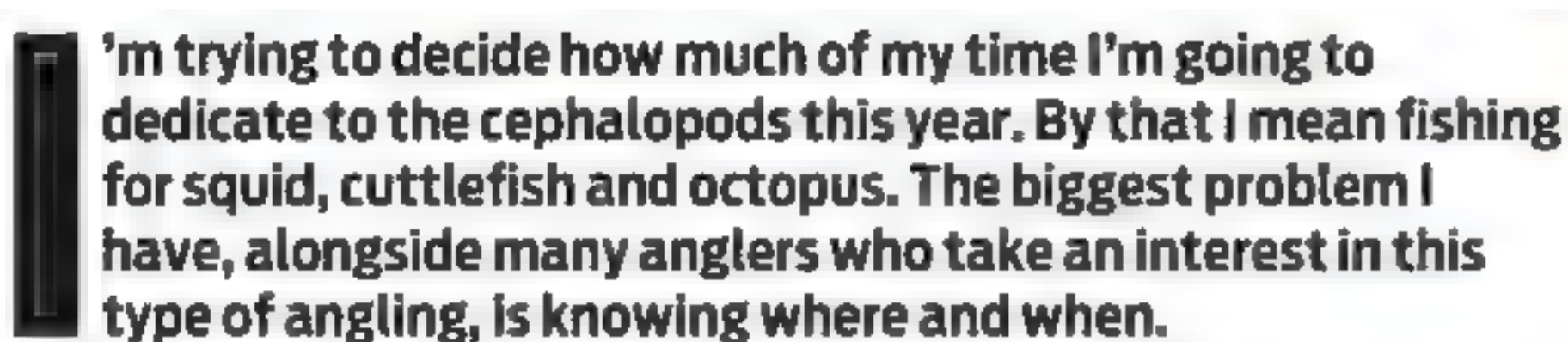
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Inside info from Top Water's Nick Roberts



I recall many snorkel adventures when I was younger chasing juvenile squid around rock pools, admiring the colour changes and pulsing light show. On many occasions I've seen octopus playing with a pirk and also find the beaches are often littered with cuttle bones. I know they are there, somewhere.

The fact that I'm told this is a sustainable fishery, and squid are delicious to eat means that we should be giving this a go.

Clearly, over in France there is currently far more impetus to fish for cephalopods than in the UK, but I see this trend changing if we can engage further with some of the gear that has been developed specifically for this species.

Also, consider that there are fishing manufacturers that have a dedicated line of products developed specifically for this type of fishing, 'Eging' as it's known globally.

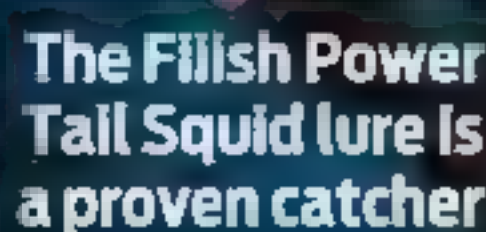
The Fiiish Power Tail Squid lure, for example, is a strange-looking device, but now market proven. I have seen this lure catch plenty. It has the original Fiiish Power Tail's plastic disc tail design, which acts like a transparent fin to create a drogue effect as the lure falls, together with lots of vibration. Unlike most squid jigs, the hook basket is placed on the back of the lure, above the lure's paddle which mitigates against snags. A controlled, slow descent is perfect presentation for a squid waiting to ambush.

Significantly, the design of the Power Tail Squid's head means that it can be fished right on the bottom with the lure being presented at a 45-degree angle. The colour range for the Power

Tail Squid is exquisite, with many natural colours, such as red mullet and silver sardine, alongside some great UV variations.

It is available in three weights – 15g, 25g and 50g – for shore and offshore fishing. Go on, give it a go, but watch out for the ink.

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info@topwaterlures.co.uk



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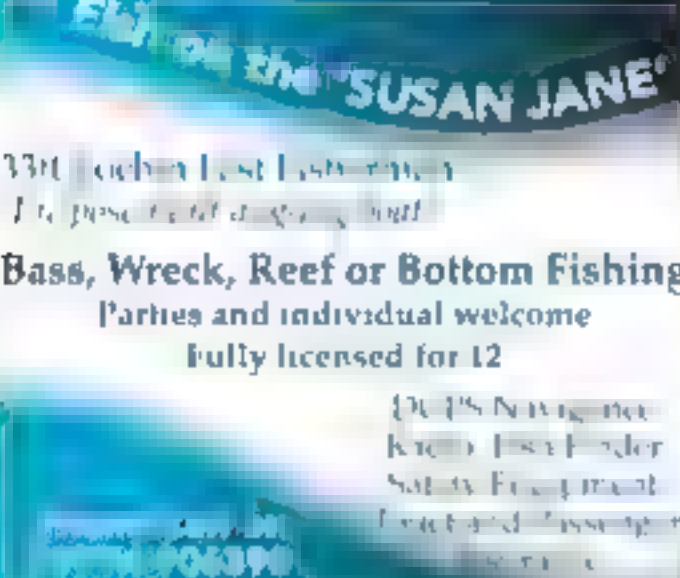
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SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

PENN PLUS

RAMSEY ANGLING FESTIVAL Point West & Manxmatch, Isle of Man, 150 anglers

Hot, settled conditions failed to bring the tope on the feed as hoped, but there were still good bags of dogfish, along with dabs, gurnards and flounders, which resulted in some close zone results among the 50 anglers on each of the three days.

Ben Bradstock, of Honiton, and local angler Ben Richards both secured five zone points, but the West Country angler edged it on fish length with 2,640cm compared to 2,192cm. The winner also won two zones compared to the runner-up's one. Third was also decided on fish points and went to Dan Mogridge with seven zone points and 1667cm, ahead of James Madsen with the same zone points but 1,600cm.

■ **Result:** 1 Ben Bradstock, Honiton, 5 zone pts, 2,640cm (15pts); 2 Ben Richards, Isle of Man, 5, 2,192cm (14); 3 Dan Mogridge, Fareham, 7, 1,667cm (13); 4 James Madsen, Bedminster, 7, 1,600cm (12); 5 Darren Newland, Lake, 8, 2,080cm (11); 6 Dave Wood-Brignall, St Mary's Bay, 8, 2,000cm (10); 7 Nathan Elliott, Dover, 8, 1,896cm (9); 8 Joe Arch, Llanishen, 8, 1,700cm (8); 9 Andrew Dugdale, Peel, 9, including heaviest fish, 2-7-8 dogfish (7); 10 Dave Walls, Castletown, 10, 1,920cm (6). Zones (based on daily entry) – Jon Gleave, Peel; Julian Shambrook, Torquay; Stuart Littlewood, Onchan & Mark Quirk, Ramsey (all 2).

FILEY BRIGG AS FOORDS OPEN

Whitby West Pier to Bridlington South Pier, Yorkshire, 90 anglers

The Brigg end proved a popular mark for competitors, with Alex Gate, of Middlesbrough, catching a 6lb 2oz 5dr pollack to win this heaviest fish match.

Runner-up was Steve Dixon, of Seaham, with a 4lb 10oz 7dr codling, followed by



Paul Medd, of Scarborough, with a 4lb 10oz 5dr codling in a heaviest bag of nine fish (eight codling and a wrasse) for 27-6-9.

■ **Result:** 1 Alex Gate, Middlesbrough, 6-2-5 (9pts); 2 Steve Dixon, Seaham, 4-10-7 (8); 3 Paul Medd, Scarborough, 4-10-5, also heaviest bag, 27-6-9 (7).

HENRY'S TACKLE ALL IRELAND SMOOTHHOUND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kilgorman, Co Wexford, 44 anglers

The inaugural event attracted anglers from all over Ireland, with the top prize going to the angler catching the longest smoothhound.

Plenty of fish were caught, but not the 80cm to 100cm smoothhounds that were expected.

There were three anglers, Roy McDowell, Tommy Fogarty and Noel Fogarty, who shared first place, each with a 38cm hound, while the top bag went to Eamon Bermingham with 12 fish.

■ **Result:** Jt 1 Roy McDowell, Tommy Fogarty, Raheny and Noel Fogarty, Dublin, all 38cm hound (all 4pts). Longest bag – Eamon Bermingham, Dublin, 12 fish (1). Zones – Marco De Kleer and Darren Ryan, South Shore SAC (both 1).

SCALBY MILLS OPEN

Whitby west pier to South Landing, Flamborough, Yorks, 66 anglers

Winner Chris Scaife, of Filey, caught a 4lb 2oz 12dr codling at Gristhorpe, to edge out Alan Beale, of Middlesbrough, with a 3lb 15oz 4dr codling.

■ **Result:** 1 Chris Scaife, Filey, 4-2-12 (6pts); 2 Alan Beale, Middlesbrough, 3-15-4 (5); 3 James Moore, Whitby, 3-11-6 (4). Heaviest bag – Peter Dunn, Scarborough, 23-13-14 (2).

SCOTTISH OPEN SHORE CHAMPIONSHIP

Riverside Drive, Dundee, 54 anglers

Five hours of hectic action saw Gareth Gardiner, of Sunderland, catch a 44-fish mixed bag to win with 1,170 points.

Runner-up was Gav Owen, of Consett, with 32 fish for 794 points. His catch included the longest fish, a 35cm flounder. In third was another visitor from the North East, Dave Lumley, with 31 fish for 771 points.

■ **Result:** 1 Gareth Gardiner, Sunderland, 44 fish, 1170pts (5pts); 2 Gav Owen, Consett, 32, 794 (4); 3 Dave Lumley, Tyneside, 31, 771 (3). Zone – Peter Graves, 30, 679 (2).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE ROUND 6 & OPEN

Southbourne, Dorset, 61 anglers

Winner was Tony South with two undulate rays for 15-14-0 from peg 18 in zone B.

Darren Newland, of Lake, was second with 12-6-0 from peg 13 in zone A, with third going to Dave Lane, of Weymouth, with 11-15-0, including an 11lb 14oz undulate ray, from peg 67 in zone D.

■ **Result:** 1 Tony South, Poole, 15-15-0 (6pts); 2 Darren Newland, Lake, 12-6-0 (5); 3 Dave Lane, Weymouth, 11-15-0, including heaviest fish, 11-14-0 undulate ray (4). Zones – Paul Simmons, 10-4-0 (2).

WELSH FSA EAST REGION OPEN

St Brides, Newport, 79 anglers

With the weather near perfect, but with a north-east wind, the anglers struggled to catch. As a result, only 22 anglers recorded fish on their scorecards.

Winner was Joseph Gamlin, of Llanrumney, with one fish, a conger of 2.40kg, followed by Ryan Poole, of Newport, with a conger and silver eel for 1.38kg. Third was Chris Equall, of Cardiff, with two congeners for 1.15kg.

■ **Result:** 1 Joseph Gamlin, Llanrumney, 2.40kg conger (7pts); 2 Ryan Poole, Newport, 1.38kg conger (6); 3 Chris Equall, Cardiff, 2 congeners, 1.15kg (5).

LEADERBOARDS

All matches up to July 12

PREMIER DIVISION

Henry Randell	Bodham	50
George Smith	Grimsby	50
Steve Adams	Shotley	48
Ged Stevens	Barrow	48
Darren Bond	Lancing	45
Cameron Turner	Felixstowe	45
Ben Bradstock	Honiton	44
Andy Crowe	Scarborough	40
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	40

* Only those with 40pts or more are listed.

DIVISION ONE

Matthew Garbutt	Whitby	44
Chris Fisher	Aldbrough	30
Richard Southgate	Bridlington	29
David Cooper	Edinburgh	28
Steve Cooper	Bridlington	28
Keith Smith	Blyth	27
Aaran Stead	Sunderland	27
Glen Wilson	Hull	26
Steve Ingleston	Whitby	25
Ian Reynolds	Long Riston	25

* Only those with 25pts or more are listed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLOSE AT TOP

■ Simon Drayton retained his SAMF Yorkshire Summer League title by edging out Adrian Bordianu on fish points. Both anglers gained 10 points during the series, but Simon's 965 fish points decided it over Adrian's 495pts.

SIX-FISH WIN

■ Three smoothhounds, two flounders and a dab gave Gareth Gardiner, of Sunderland, a winning 1,334 points in the North West ASAC Personal Members Championship, held at the Rock Channel, New Brighton.

BAIT DILEMMA

■ Due to the early start and crab bait hard to source, it reduced the attendance at the Bispham Angling Sea League at Stanah. Fewer flounders were caught, with winner David Hutchinson, of Morecambe, taking 12 fish for 359 points.

PENN SHORTS

■ **Amble SAC summer open, Seahouses South Pier to Lynemouth pipe, Northumberland, 100 anglers:** 1 Alan O'Neill, South Shields, 8-14-8 (10pts); 2 Wayne Smalles, Crumlington, 8-0-4 (9); 3 Eddie Richardson, Workington, 8-0-0 (8). Heaviest fish - Tommy Tail, Sunderland, 4-0-8 (3).

■ **Bispham Angling Sea League rnd 8 of 12 open, Stanah, Lancs, 19 anglers:** 1 David Hutchinson, Morecambe, 12 fish, 359cm (1pt); 2 Stuart Dewhurst, Preston, 1, 319cm; 3 Les Mason, Kendal, 0, 309cm, including longest fish, 68cm bass.

■ **Bognor Regis AAS open, West End Beach, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 12 anglers:** 1 Wayne Hart, Bognor Regis, 2 fish, 89pts (1pt); 2 Dave Thompson, Pagham, 5, 85; 3 Andy Cross, Southampton, 1, 33.

■ **Graham East memorial open (formerly the Solé Challenge), River Thames, Gravesend, Kent, 58 anglers:** 1 Ian Reynolds, South Benfleet, 4; Brian Smith, Deal, both 4 fish, 160cm (both 5pts); 3 Nathan Elliott, Dover, 6, 158cm (3). Heaviest fish - Nigel Hawes, Sheerness, 0-15-0 eel (2). Zone - Trevor Cousins, Bearsted, 4, 103cm (2).

■ **Matchman's open, Point West, Isle of Man, 12 anglers:** 1 Neville Charlesworth, Hornsea, 880cm (1pt); 2 Stuart Littlewood, Onchan, 480cm.

■ **North Wales and Wirral SFG open, Sunnyvale to Golden Sands holiday park, Kinnel Bay, Conwy, 23 anglers:** 1 Norman Bouch, 38cm flounder (2pts); 2 Gwion Roberts, 36cm bass (1); 3 John Hamson, 34cm bass.

■ **North West ASAC Personal Members open, Rock Channel, New Brighton, Merseyside, 21 anglers:** 1 Gareth Gardiner, Sunderland, 6 fish, 1334pts (2pts); 2 John Waugh, Wallasey, 6, 750, including longest fish, 96cm smoothhound (1); 3 Jim Morns, Wervin, 4, 690.

■ **North West SAL Flounder Championship, Port Carlisle, Cumbria, 48 anglers:** 1 Gav Owen, Consett, 18 fish, 487pts (4pts); 2 Micky Bell, Gateshead, 15, 487 (3); 3 Neil Williams, Maryport, 17, 451 (2). Longest fish - Dave Hutchinson, Blackpool, 42cm.

(1) Zone - Tommy Tail, Sunderland (1).

■ **Saltburn open, Marske beach, Redcar, 28 anglers:** 1 Nick Westgarth, Barwick, 6 fish, 143cm (2pts); 2 Joseph Ward (nr), 4, 102cm (1); 3 Thomas Smith (nr), 3, 70cm.

■ **SAMF Yorkshire Summer League, East Halton, East Yorks, 20 anglers:** 1 Simon Drayton, Gainsborough, 161pts (2pts); 2 Adrian Bordianu, Taverham, 131 (1); 3 Tony Thomas, Sheringham, 130.

■ **SAMF Yorkshire Summer League, Hessle, East Yorks, 30 anglers:** 1 Gary Hutson, Cleethorpes, 113pts, including longest fish, 30cm flounder (3pts); 2 Paul Denholm, Grimsby, 12 fish, 104pts (2); 3 Tony Thomas, Sheringham, 10 fish, 104pts (1). Zone - Adrian Bordianu, Taverham, 96pts.

■ **SAMF Yorkshire Summer League, Barton, East Yorks, 12 anglers:** 1 Brett Barrum, Barton, 17 fish, 154pts (1pt); 2 Lee Smith, Hull, 5, 128pts; 3 Ian Nelson, Grimsby, 1, 113pts. League - 1 Simon Drayton, Gainsborough, 10pts, 965 fish pts; 2 Adrian Bordianu, Taverham, 10, 495.

■ **Tralee Bay SAC open rovers, Fenit pier viaduct section, Co. Kerry, 21 anglers:** 1 Rosaleene Murphy, Dublin, 19 fish, 455pts (2pts); 2 Shane McMahon, Kerry, 21, 394 (1); 3 Aidan O'Sullivan, Tralee, 18, 319. Longest fish - Sean Fitzgerald, Tralee, 40cm bass.

■ **Veals Summer League rnd 4 & open, Littleton, South Glos, 42 anglers:** 1 Roy Tapper, Pentwyn, 5 fish, 6-15-0, including heaviest fish, 2-12-0 conger (4pts); 2 Nick Snow, Gloucester, 10, 5-10-0 (3); 3 Richard Reynolds, 4, 3-8-0 (2). Zones - Gary Simons, Weston-super-Mare, 3, 3-4-0 (1).

■ **Veals Summer League rnd 5 & open, Littleton, South Glos, 35 anglers:** 1 Gergo Fischer, Bradley Stoke, 6 fish, 6-10-0 (3pts); 2 Dave Shore, Portishead, 4, 4-12-0 (2); 3 Calvin Parker, Caldicot, 3, 3-14-0 (1).

■ **Amendments:** North West Sea Angling Champs - Scott McCartney and Gavin Owen both get 2pts for zone wins. Minehead Festival - Roy Tapper receives 1pt for a zone win. North Norfolk Bass Festival - the runner-up was Dave Wright from Southwold, not Felixstowe.

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes spread over the two divisions, points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match.

Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue.



If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year.

To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League - supply your name, address, phone and email.

Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to: cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

MONTHLY WINNER

■ 573: Darren Newland, Lake, 16pts

REMINDER

Penn Sea League entries will only be accepted from the match organiser or officials of the club concerned. If results are not supplied to Sea Angler within a month of the event, the event will be declared void for Penn points.

WHAT'S ON

JULY

● 27: Southern League rnd 7 of 12 & open, Hillhead, 6pm-11pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 1oz, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2019 League entry £20, booking ends one hour before start, Darren 07919 073 232, Nick 07870 922 216, Mike 07983 579 596, Ian 07736 004 714 or Ant 07775 691 916.

● **27: West Coast Shore League rnd 4**
(Galway Bay SAC), Lettergesh, County
Galway, €15 entry, €5 juniors, Brian Reidy
00353 (0)85 7339040.

● 27-28: Peever two-day open, 11am-4pm Friday, noon-5pm Saturday, pegged, measure & release, one boulder beach venue and one estuary venue to be fished by each member of pair over two days, £40 per pair, optional £5 long fish pool each day, Penn points for individual result, booking advisable, Bob Drennan 07469 184812 or Davy Little 07721 736017.

● **28:** Whitby Summer League rnd 4 of 6 & open, Saltburn Pier to Filey Coble Landing, 4pm-8pm, heaviest fish match, weigh in by 8.30pm at Fleece car park, Church St, Whitby, £40 all-in for six matches, James 07773 702111.

PENN PLUS MATCH

**July 28: Penarth SAC
Summer Festival
Holiday open (Garry
Evans Seamaster),
Penarth pier and beach.
2pm-8pm, in aid of
RNLI, Bob Galley
02920 706995.**

● 28: Leinster League open, Newcastle, Leinster League rules, Paul Whelan 00353 (0)85 1425728.

● 28: Smoothhound open, Trunch Lane, Chapel St Leonards, 10.30am-3.30pm, meet 8am-9.30am at Lakeside leisure café, one rod, two hooks, £20 all-in, Continental system, Mark 07500 112515.

● 28: SAI Fishing Club
Help for Heroes
League rnd 2 of 6 &
open, Swansea
Breakwater,
2.30pm-6.30pm,
one rod, three
hooks, £10 league
registration, £15
match entry, longest
fish match, best four
of six results, Alan
Duthie 07847 188843.

AUGUST

● 3: Samalite Chesil League & open, Cogden, 6pm-11pm, best eight from 10 matches, £25 league membership, new members welcome, £15 match entry, book in by 3pm, Dave 07977 132951.

● **3: Silecroft Robyn Gray memorial open, Silecroft, 11.30am-3.30pm, pegged, measure & release, 20cm limit, two hooks, £20 entry, draw 9.30am-10.30am at Silecroft beach café, book only, Antony 07743 094616.**

● **4: Llantwit Major charity open** (Garry Evans Seamaster), Summerhouse Lookout Point, Boverton to High Ledges, Marcross, 1.15pm-6.15pm, weigh in at beach café by 7.15pm, £10 entry, £5 pairs, Mark Cowell 07721 791210.

● 4: Whitby Summer League rnd 5 of 6 & open, Saltburn Pier to Filey Coble Landing, 4pm-8pm, heaviest fish match, weigh in by 8.30pm at Fleece car park, Church St, Whitby, £40 all-in for six matches, James 07773 702111.

● 10: Three Herrings
SAC Pwllheli open,
Pwllheli, 1pm-5pm,
book in from 9am at
Glan Mor beach shop car
park, South Beach,
leisure & return, £10 entry,
biggest fish pool, back up
overch, Steve Roberts
6 and Gwyn Hughes

● **11: Lincs open, Trunch Lane, 1pm-6, book in from 11am, catch and release, £15 entry, booking advisable, Garry 07889 271115 or George 07857 550125.**

● **11: Scottish Match League rnd 3 & open, Carsluith, Solway Estuary, 1pm-6pm, pegged, zoned, measure & release, two hooks maximum, £20 entry, Scott McCartney 07766 000139.**

● 11: SAI Fishing Club Help for Heroes

TIDES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

LONDON BRIDGE

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JULY

25	THU	07.44	6.02	19.57	6.02
26	FRI	08.36	5.84	20.53	5.87
27	SAT	09.47	5.78	22.16	5.88
28	SUN	11.04	5.93	23.34	6.15
29	MON	** **	** *	12.12	6.23
30	TUE	00.39	6.52	13.15	6.54
31	WED	01.38	6.87	14.11	6.80

AUGUST

1	● THU	02.32	7.14	15.02	6.97
2	FRI	03.24	7.34	15.50	7.10
3	SAT	04.12	7.47	16.35	7.19
4	SUN	04.59	7.51	17.18	7.21
5	MON	05.45	7.40	18.02	7.14
6	TUE	06.32	7.18	18.46	6.98
7	☾ WED	07.21	6.88	19.35	6.78
8	THU	08.12	6.58	20.30	6.55
9	FRI	09.09	6.31	21.32	6.34
10	SAT	10.11	6.10	22.39	6.19
11	SUN	11.22	6.01	23.52	6.20

12	MON	***	***	12.36	6.15
13	TUE	01.01	6.40	13.34	6.39
14	WED	01.57	6.64	14.21	6.58
15	○ THU	02.42	6.80	15.01	6.71
16	FRI	03.21	6.88	15.37	6.79
17	SAT	03.57	6.90	16.09	6.84
18	SUN	04.30	6.88	16.40	6.85
19	MON	04.59	6.82	17.09	6.82
20	TUE	05.27	6.72	17.37	6.72
21	WED	05.56	6.56	18.06	6.58
22	THU	06.27	6.36	18.41	6.42
23	☾ FRI	07.04	6.14	19.21	6.25
24	SAT	07.48	5.93	20.12	6.07
25	SUN	08.48	5.74	21.20	5.93
26	MON	10.18	5.71	22.56	6.05
27	TUE	11.43	6.00	***	***
28	WED	00.13	6.45	12.54	6.42
29	THU	01.19	6.88	13.54	6.80
30	● FRI	02.17	7.23	14.45	7.06
31	SAT	03.08	7.45	15.32	7.25

TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON

[illegible]

Your at-a-glance match events planner

● = Penn Sea League



League rnd 3 of 6 & open, Swansea Breakwater, 2.30pm-6.30pm, one rod, three hooks, £10 league registration, £15 match entry, longest fish match, best four of six results, Alan Duthie 07847 188843.

16: PF Sea League rnd 8, Eastney, measure & release, £20 league membership, £10 match entry, (£12.50 non-member), Lock, Stock and Tackle 02392 812 478.

● 17: West Coast Shore League rnd 5 (Mullaghmore SAC), Rosses Point, County Sligo, €15 entry, €5 juniors, Brian Reidy 00353 (0)85 7339040.

● 17: Veals Summer League rnd 6 & open, Littleton, 6.15pm-10.15pm, draw 5.15pm, pegged, one rod, three hooks, no white rag or maddies, £60 league entry, best eight matches from 10, £15 entry all-in, book only to fish as opens, Steve 0117 926 0790.

● 18: North West ASAC open, Town Hall/Maddock Bank, 11.30am-4pm, book in 9.30am-10.15am at Tobin Street, CH44 8DF, book only 07572 593272 or 0151 677 0011.

● 18: Bedlington Station summer open, rover, Northumberland, Steve Surtees 07888 674873.

● 18: South Wales summer open, North Channel, 12.30pm-5.30pm, meet 11am at Burry Port shoreline SA16 0HD, WFSA rules, longest single fish & longest overall length, catch & release, pegged, three hooks, 20cm minimum size, Peter Evans 07599 540822.

● 18: Clyde & Western Region open, Greenock Esplanade, noon-5pm, three hooks, measure & return, no size limit, register 9am-11am at yacht club, burgers, tea & coffee available, 150 pegs, booking advisable, £15 entry, juniors free, all juniors receive prize, Lindsay Wilson 07751 051782 after 6pm.

● 18: Hookers Baits charity open, in aid of Brian House Children's Hospice, Cleveleys, 11.30am-3.30pm, £500 1st, overall length (all fish), weavers 10cm, draw 10.30am at car park behind The Venue pub (FY5 1LW), raffle, sponsor forms available, 01253 860505.

● 24-25: Northern Ireland FSA Two-Day Open Shore Championship, Longfields Estuary, east coast beaches and Roe Estuary, €50 entry, €5 federation fee, £1,000 1st, Harry 07718 313793 or facebook page.

● 25: Lincs open, Chapel Point, 1pm-6pm, book in from 11am, catch and release, £15 entry, booking advisable, Garry 07889 271115 or George 07857 550125.

● 25: Whitby Summer League rnd 6 of 6 & open, Saltburn pier to Filey Coble Landing, 4pm-8pm, heaviest fish match, weigh in by 8.30pm at Fleece car park,



Britain's biggest festival of boating, the Southampton International Boat Show, powered by Borrow A Boat, returns from Friday, September 13 to Sunday, September 22.

Held at Mayflower Park, Southampton, it will spotlight the accessibility, flexibility and inclusivity of boating.

Boasting Europe's largest purpose-built marina, it will host thousands of guests and businesses over an action-packed 10 days.

Dedicated features and guest speakers will showcase how getting out on the water is for everyone, and that access to watercraft is easier than people may think.

A host of boats and products from more than 600 global marine brands, along with live music and interactive attractions will provide visitors with the opportunity to discover their passion for the water. These include on-the-water experiences, such as try a boat, try a dive and get afloat, as well as a practical boating stage and virtual sailing.

Opening times are 10am to 6.30pm September 13-21 and 10am to 6pm on September 22. Tickets are available to purchase from the show website: southamptonboatshow.com. For ticket costs and packages, visit boatshow.seetickets.com/content/ticket-options.

Angling Trust members can claim a 50 per cent discount, so check out the Trust's website.

Church St, Whitby, £40 all-in for six matches, James 07773 702111.

● 25: Holyhead & District SAC open, Holyhead breakwater, noon-4pm, catch & release, cash prizes for top four, pools and table prizes, entries from 10am, Mark James 01407 763584.

● 30-31: Leinster Closed Gold open, Wicklow/Arklow (Friday 8pm-midnight) & North Wexford (Saturday 2pm-6pm), €50 for weekend, €5 per day longest fish pool, national rules apply, Paul Whelan 00353 (0)851 425728 or David Roche 00353 (0)86 2692459.

Fixtures must be sent in by match organisers only and must include full details and a contact telephone number. Emails received will be acknowledged. Send events at least eight weeks in advance of the fixture to cliff.brown@bauermedia.co.uk

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TIME MACHINE

Looking back through 40 years of Britain's biggest and best sea angling magazine...

AUGUST

2009

■ The largest fish ever caught in Irish waters was boated off the country's west coast. The monster, a six-gill shark weighing 1,056lb (480kg) demolished the national record by 900lb. The fish was caught five miles north west of Loop Head, at the mouth of the Shannon, by Swiss angler Joe Waldaf, who was on Luke Ashton's Clare Dagoon, out of Carrigaholt. Bait was fresh mackerel on an 8ft trace of 250lb mono with a size 10/0 hook.

■ Landscape gardener Will White caught and released a tope estimated at 85lb off the Scottish coast. It would have been 2lb 8oz over the British record of 82lb 8oz. Will, of Elstow, Beds, was fishing on one of Ian Burrett's Orkney 19ft boats out of Port Logan, Dumfries & Galloway.

■ The Angling Trust welcomed plans in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill for large Marine Conservation Zones. Damaging activities such as commercial trawling and aggregate extraction would be banned.

■ While fishing aboard Jeff Clarke's charter boat Duchess, out of Weymouth, Dorset, John Gibson boated a 17lb turbot. The angler, from Bristol, fished a running leger rig baited with mackerel strip.

■ Charter skipper Stuart Lawn, of Predator, out of Southwold, Suffolk, caught cod of 20lb and 15lb in a 100-fish catch taken by a party of anglers fishing 35 miles off the East Anglian town.

1999

■ A debut offshore boat trip resulted in a Jersey record angler fish of 28lb 4oz for a rock and pier angler. Mick Neagle, of St Helier, was aboard Tony Heart's charter boat Anna II when the fish fell to a mackerel strip. The previous best for the island was 24lb 8oz, caught 12 years earlier.



■ Decorator Dave Lawless, of Warrington SAC, caught a 56lb 8oz tope while fishing aboard Anthony Parry's charter boat Jensen, out of Rhyll, Denbighshire.

■ A retired local government officer caught a 17lb 8oz bass while

legering a ragworm bait on a size 1 hook at St Osyth, Essex. He nearly lost it, though, when the trace swivel broke as he beached the fish.

■ Royal County of Berkshire DSAC member Richard Kennett caught a 73lb 8oz conger eel while fishing aboard Chris Savage's boat Private Venture, out of Lymington, Hants. There was a 63-pounder for Alan Deeming, of Bembridge AC, who was fishing from his own boat off the east coast of the Isle of Wight.

1989

■ A stunning 99lb 2oz conger eel graced the decks of Barry Hosking's Craft K, out of Plymouth, Devon, when local angler Pat Eaton boated it as part of a 2,000lb haul of eels.

■ Roger Moore landed what is still the British record shore-caught plaice of 8lb 8oz while fishing at Southbourne beach, Bournemouth, in Dorset. The angler, from Southbourne, caught it after casting his ragworm bait to 60 yards.

■ A 15lb 1oz bass was caught off Eastbourne, East Sussex, on a Red Gill artificial sandeel by local angler Derek Box.

■ The Menai Strait between North Wales and Anglesey produced a 12lb 14oz bass for Robert Helon, of Farnborough, Hants, who fished a soft edible crab at short range. There was also a 12lb 8oz fish on a plug for Stephen Champion, of Plymouth's Rodbenders SAC, who was fishing a rocky stretch of the Devon coast.

■ Thirty-two nursery areas were proposed by the

Ministry of Agriculture to protect English and Welsh bass stocks. The proposal was being put out to consultation with organisations and members of the public. There would be three off the South East coast, seven along the South Coast, one in the South West, 10 in Wales and the North West.

1979

■ Sea Angler contributor Jim Ingledew completed a superb double when he followed up his big-money open match win at Pakefield at the first attempt with a similar success at his tournament casting debut. He won the 1979 British Open qualifying heat at Chelmsford with a best cast of 202yd 5in in the 150g multiplier section. Paul Kerry won the 150g fixed-spool class with 188yd 6in.

■ Three Bradwell skippers played their own version of musical chairs. Nobby Clark took over Lady Iris from Kevin Benham, who in turn skippered Donnah, which was formerly John Rawle's boat. John had a new 38ft vessel.

■ Norman Stephenson and three pals from Force Ten SAC, based at Helston, Middlesex, had their first taste of wreck fishing on Helping Hand, skippered by Geoff Budgins, out of Rye. In 40 minutes they landed 22 cod, the biggest 27lb 8oz to Norman. Club secretary Phil Power boated two at once, weighing 18lb and 12lb, one on a pirk and the other on feathers. Bill Burridge and Joe Diviani also had their share of action with double-figure fish.

■ Peter Rackett, chairman of the Isle of Wight's Readers AC, returned to the cliff tops after a night fishing session to find his car missing. When found by the police, it was undamaged and the contents were intact, but with the addition of a tobacco tin left on the driver's seat containing £5 in coins.



Century  **UK MADE**

NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX SPORT
13ft 11" (125-225g) Heavy - Mixed
NORM £595.00 GP £520.00

NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX SUPERMATCH
13ft 6" (125-200g) Light Heavy - Mixed - Smooth
NORM £570.00 GP £499.00

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NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX SUPERMATCH LD
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NEW TIP TORNADO GRAPHX ULTRALITE ST
13ft (50-125g) Smooth
NORM £510.00 GP £445.00

EXCALIBUR TT 14ft 10" (4-8oz)
NORM £650.00 GP £569.00

EXCALIBUR J CURVE 13ft 6" (4-7oz)
NORM £514.50 GP £450.00

EXCALIBUR C CURVE 13ft 10" (4-8oz)
NORM £540.00 GP £472.50

EXCALIBUR SRE (3-7oz)
13ft 8" NORM £514.50 GP £450.00
15ft NORM £549.00 GP £480.00

KOMPRESSOR WR300 13ft (4-8oz)
NORM £495.00 GP £433.00

KOMPRESSOR SUPER SPORT SS 13ft 10" (4-8oz)
NORM £460.00 GP £399.99

KOMPRESSOR SPORT S 13ft 10" (4-7oz)
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NORM £570.00 GP £499.99

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NORM £595.00 GP £520.00

ELIMINATOR T1000 14ft 10" (4-8oz)
NORM £685.00 GP £569.00

ELIMINATOR T1200 14ft 10" (5-8oz)
NORM £685.00 GP £599.99

Zziplex All Zziplex rods now come with Fuji Alconite guides, shrink tube, coasters + rod bag. All professionally finished in house in Zziplex colours Red, White & Blue, but any custom build can be accommodated just call for advice! Note: We can now offer Fuji Titanium Torzite K Guides for the customer that wants the best!

UK'S LEADING STOCKIST OF ZZIPLEX RODS!

Zziplex M4 GT. 13ft 4", 4-8oz A fast action rod fitted with a glass tip to aid bite registration. One of the best all round fishing rods available. 25mm butt, Equal section.
Blank £469.99 | Built £549.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £599.99

Zziplex M4 Hi-flex M A clean ground distance fishing rod. If you after getting over that sandbank at range and still want good bite registration, this is the rod for you. Popular with match fishermen. 24mm, equal section.
Blank £459.99 | Built £539.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £589.99

Zziplex Profile GT. 13ft 3", 4-6oz A wonderfully nice clean ground fishing rod fitted with a glass tip which is ideal when looking for smaller bites. 22mm butt, Equal section.
Blank £399.99 | Built £479.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £529.99

Zziplex Profile Evo. 13ft 8", 4-7oz This is a very slim fast action rod ideal for distance fishing over clean ground. It's fitted with a stiff tip which makes it better for dealing with larger species. 22mm butt.
Blank £389.99 | Built £469.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £519.99

Zziplex TF 50/50. 13ft 4", 4-7oz This is our best selling Zziplex. It's any easy to use clean to mixed ground rod which will deal with most fish that swim around our coast. 23mm butt, equal section.
Blank £359.99 | Built £439.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £489.99

Zziplex Evolution GT. 13ft 4", 4-6oz New for 2016. This rod is just beautiful. It is an ideal summer rod suitable a host of situations over clean and mixed ground. Fitted with a glass tip for better bite registration. 24mm butt, equal section.
Blank £399.99 | Built £479.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £529.99

Zziplex Evolution CT. 13ft 4", 4-6oz New for 2016. This rod is the same as the Evolution GT but fitted with a carbon tip which is stiffer making it ideal for specimen fish, Rays, Cod, Hounds etc.
Blank £399.99 | Built £479.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £529.99

Zziplex HSM 13ft 6", 3-7oz HSM stands for 'High Speed Match' and as the name suggests it has a quick recovery but no overly stiff and fitted with a softer tip for great bite registration. 25mm butt, Longer tip.
Blank £459.99 | Built £539.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £589.99

Zziplex M427 A great mixed to rough ground rod ideal is ideal for winter Cod fishing and Specimen hunting off the rocks throughout the year. Quick recovery. 25mm butt, slightly longer tip.

Zziplex M427 Hi-Flex. Designed for the same job as the standard M427 but with a slower recovery. Zziplex M427 SU. Designed with a much stiffer butt section for field work.
Blank £469.99 | Built £549.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £599.99

Zziplex Powertex Bass 12ft 8", 3-5oz Without a doubt the best bass rod on the market. It's ideal for fishing light beach fishing from low or high water. Fitted with a long 8ft 6" tip which makes it feel amazing in the cast. 20mm butt.
Blank £259.99 | Built £339.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Sea Raider III GT. 10ft, 4-8oz Brand new for 2016. The ultimate uptider? We think so. It's made out of brand new materials and resins to make it more responsive. It also features a glass tip to offer unrivalled bite registration.
Blank £199.99 | Built £279.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £319.99

Zziplex Equal Section Bass Rod GT (Glass Tip) 11ft 8", 2-4oz The soft tip gives beautiful bite registration and allows soft bait to be thrown a little harder without coming off. This will become one of the most sold rods of all time we are sure.
Blank £259.99 | Built £339.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Equal Section Bass Rod CT (Carbon Tip) 11ft 8", 2-5oz Slightly stiffer tip than the GT version, still with great bite registration, better for stronger tides. This will become one of the most sold rods of all time we are sure.
Blank £259.99 | Built £339.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £389.99

Zziplex Trinity CT 14ft 4", 4-6oz Probably the best all round 3 piece rod we have seen. Ideal for clean to mixed ground when distance is key with a simple overhead cast. Slim, responsive and sits well in the tide.
Blank £439.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

Zziplex Trinity GT 14ft 4", 3-5oz Designed as a true continental for casting softer baits extreme distance with an over head thump. The glass tip provides some of the best bite indication you can get in a beach rod.
Blank £439.99 | Built £519.99 | BUILT BY CHRIS DANCE £559.99

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE ONLINE

LURE FISHING ONE OF THE LARGEST LURE RANGES IN THE UK AT WWW.GERRYSFISHING.COM

HTO NEBULA LURE RODS Highly regarded by 'Henry Gilbey'. One of our best selling rods.

7ft 6" 7-28g	RRP £108.99	GP £99.99
9ft 7-35g	RRP £134.99	GP £124.99
9ft 12-42g	RRP £134.99	GP £124.99

SAKURA SALT SNIPER LURE RODS

One of the best lure rod ranges we have seen in a long time. They are responsive, tough yet lightweight to hold and feature 'braid friendly' Fuji K guides.

7ft 3" 3-15g	RRP £84.99	GP £74.99
7ft 10-35g	RRP £84.99	GP £74.99
7ft 3" 3-15g	RRP £84.99	GP £74.99
8ft 14-42g	RRP £89.99	GP £79.99
8ft 20-85g	RRP £89.99	GP £79.99
9ft 14-42g	RRP £89.99	GP £79.99
10ft 15-75g	RRP £99.99	GP £89.99

PENN PURSUIT III SPINNING REELS

Offering a super smooth line lay and an ultra light construction this new reel from Penn is an absolute gem.

2500 Cap 140yds/10lb mono (6.2:1)	RRP £64.99	GP £54.99
3000 Cap 165yds/10lb mono (6.2:1)	RRP £69.99	GP £59.99
4000 Cap 220yds/10lb mono (6.2:1)	RRP £79.99	GP £69.99
5000 Cap 200yds/15lb mono (6.2:1)	RRP £79.99	GP £69.99



SHARK FISHING

We are the leading supplier of dedicated shark tackle in the UK

AFW 49 STRAND WIRE (30ft)

The 'must have' wire when targeting large sharks around the UK coast.

90lb	£9.99	175lb	£14.99
275lb	£16.99	400lb	£16.99

(Matching crimps available)



HI-SEA'S GRAND SLAM MONO LEADER (100yds)

The best leader material on the market. It's tough yet super supple with great knot strength.

100lb	£9.99	130lb	£11.99
150lb	£12.99	200lb	£14.99
250lb	£17.99	300lb	£19.99

(Matching Sleeve/crimps available)



PENN SQUALL 2 SPEED LEVER DRAG'S

An amazingly powerful and well built range of reels designed to tame even the largest species. Fitted with a 2 speed retrieve and a huge drag, these will not let you down.

16VS 540yds/30lb mono (5.4:1/2.1:1)	RRP £229.99	GP £199.99
30VSW 595yds/50lb mono (5.4:1/2.1:1)	RRP £289.99	GP £229.99
50VSW 890yds/50lb mono (2.9:1/1.5:1)	RRP £329.99	GP £259.99



PENN ALLY BOAT

If you're looking for a workhorse to do the heavy work on your boat, look no further. 1 piece rods with full Ali butt, Pac bay reels seat and ultra durable guides.

30/80lb 6ft 6" Standard guides	RRP £134.99	GP £119.99
30/80lb 6ft Roller tip and butt	RRP £159.99	GP £139.99
50/100lb 6ft Roller tip and butt	RRP £159.99	GP £139.99

SEIGLER REELS  **LIFETIME WARRANTY** 

SM STAR MAG

- Cap 275yds of 20lb
- Star drag
- Magnetic casting control
- Weight: 16.8oz
- Gear Ratio: 6:1
- 38" Per Crank
- Max Drag: 24lb
- Capacity: Mono 20lb/275yds
- Ceramic Ball Bearings ABEC-7
- 4 Carbon Drag Washers

RRP £399.99 GP £379.99

SMALL GAME NARROW LEVER DRAG'S

- Weight: 10.95oz
- Gear Ratio: 6:1
- 38" Per Crank
- Max Drag: Strike 18lb, Full 25lb
- Cap: Mono 20lb (0.40mm) 300yds
- Left/Right Hand - RRP £399.99

GP £339.99

SMALL GAME LEVER DRAG

- Weight: 13.2oz
- Gear Ratio: 6:1
- 38" Per Crank
- Max Drag: 25lb
- Capacity: 300yds of 0.40mm (20lb mono)
- Left/Right Hand - RRP £399.99

GP £339.99

LARGE GAME LEVER DRAG

- Weight: 20.2oz
- Gear Ratio: 6:1
- 52" Per Crank
- Max Drag: 35lb
- Capacity: 600yds of 0.40mm (20lb mono)
- Left/Right Hand - RRP £439.99

GP £389.99

NEW IN!

**STORM 360GT
COASTAL BISCAY
WEEDLESS SHADS**

Rolls and flashes from side-to-side at all speeds, and the weedless design allows you to confidently fish this lure in the weedy or rocky areas where predatory fish often hunt. 2 per pkt. VMC Hooks
Cols: Blue mack, Green mack, Sandeel

Sizes: 9cm, 19g £6.99 12cm, 40g £7.29



FREE SPOOL OF SPIDERWIRE BRAID

PENN SPINFISHER SSVI LONGCAST REELS

Great line lay? Check. Fully waterproof? Check. Huge 20lb plus drag? Check. Quality CNC gearing? Check. These, in our eyes are the best fixed spool shore reels available.

5500LC 4.3:1, Cap 250ydsx12lb mono RRP £189.99 **GP £149.99**
6500LC 4.8:1, Cap 350ydsx15lb mono RRP £199.99 **GP £159.99**
7500LC 4.3:1, Cap 440ydsx15lb mono RRP £209.99 **GP £164.99**



EXCLUSIVE!

D WOLF DUCKFIN BIG SHADS 480G, 24CM

Designed specifically for Cod and Halibut in Nordic waters the D Wolf shads features Daiwa's Duckfin paddletail design which immitates distressed fish. Each lure is fitted with a 10/0 single hook out of the top and a 8/0 treble on braided line attached to the bottom.

RRP £24.99 GP £19.99



NEW IN!

**STORM 360GT
COASTAL BISCAY
MINNOWS**

The subtle paddle tail kicks with a life-like action and incredible vibration, even at slow speeds. Designed with long casting & fast fishing in mind, the 360GT Coastal Biscay Minnow features a slim, supple body rigged to a tapered jig head with a fixed hook. 2 per pkt. VMC Hook.
Cols: Green mack, Blue mack, Sandeel.

Sizes: 9cm, 21g £5.99 12cm, 30g £6.49



FREE SPOOL OF SPIDERWIRE BRAID

PENN SPINFISHER SSVI SPIN

Ultra tough, super smooth, massive drag power and fully waterproof. What else to you want?

2500 Cap 175yds/8lb mono (6.2:1) **RRP £139.99 GP £119.99**
3500 Cap 220yds/10lb mono (6.2:1) **RRP £144.99 GP £119.99**
4500 Cap 320yds/10lb mono (6.2:1) **RRP £144.99 GP £119.99**
5500 Cap 330yds/12lb mono (5.6:1) **RRP £159.99 GP £129.99**



EXCLUSIVE!

D WOLF CURLY BIG SHAD 260G, 21CM

The shad features a uniquely designed curl tail which produces an alluring action which is absolutely deadly to any predatory fish in sight. Featuring an 8/0 single hook out of the top and a 7/0 treble on a heavy assist from the bottom.

RRP £21.99 GP £16.99



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